Amn Arbor Observer

December 2006

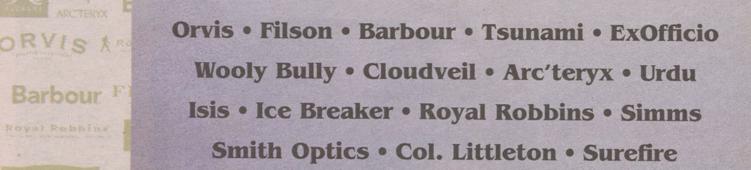
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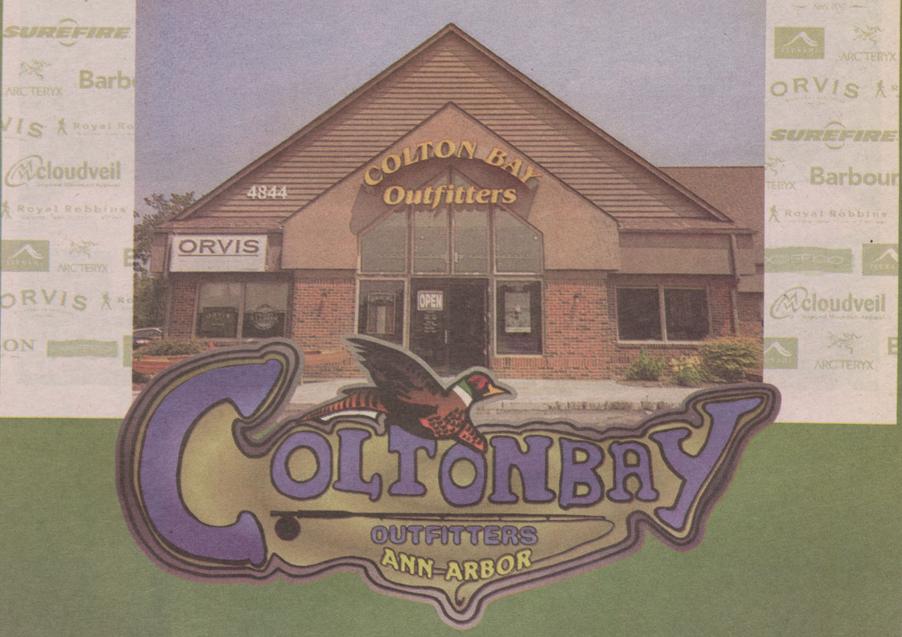
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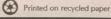
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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2006

vol. 31 • no. 4

Cover: Elena and Jane at the Peaceable Kingdom. Watercolor by Katherine Larson.







features

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Jeff Daniels Connects Jeff Mortimer How Chelsea's movie star launched a second career-as a touring singer-songwriter.

Buying Eggs Michael Betzold & Jamie Budnick Ann Arbor has a lot of older couples desperate for a child—and plenty of young women facing steep tuition bills. Welcome to the baby-making market.

PJ's Endures James Leonard It's hard to make a living selling records in the iPod era. But Jeff and Marc Taras can't give up the thrill of bringing people and music together.

Holiday Guide Laura & Tony McReynolds Timely tips for seasonal shopping.

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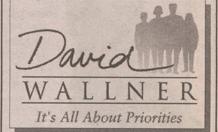
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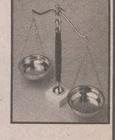
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UpFront

MichiWho? The problem with contacting a secret society is, well, it's secret. Especially when this society was thrown out of its headquarters in the Michigan Union



because of alleged racism and discriminatory appropriation of Native American symbols and rituals. Earlier this year, Michigamua, the U-M's senior society—whose illustrious members included Gerald Ford, Arthur Miller, and Bo Schembechler—pulled a Prince and dropped its notorious name. And like the musician, it seems to be having some trouble settling on a new moniker.

The group is as elusive as it is anonymous. The U-M's division of student affairs says that it does not know the society's new whereabouts, since it's no longer a registered student group. U-M media services has no information. A source close to the society said that its naming decision and PR processes move at a glacial pace, but promised help. Soon, however, a game of phone tag ensued that was worthy of a Hollywood producer. Promised calls never came. A PR contact was designated but never responded. Even the Michigan Daily-whose editor is a member-is in the dark. As it waits for word, the student newspaper is using a Princely stand-in: it calls the group "the secret society formerly known as Michigamua."

Ann d'Arbeur: With all the new construction downtown, you might think building renovation is passé—but not at 500 South Main Street. Eighteen months ago, the Michigan Glass shop at the corner of Jefferson was a nondescript concrete-block square with old garage doors, a large dark workroom, and a dingy, unused basement. Now huge windows have replaced the garage doors, the driveway is a garden, and carved-wood double doors welcome visitors to the colorful, plush offices of two law firms. "We wanted to stay downtown, and we wanted a place with history



and character," says trial lawyer Tom Blaske, who co-owns the building with estate planning attorney Charlie Groh. The highlight

of the renovation is a mural in the conference room depicting 1860s Ann Arbor. Blending history and allegory, artist Katherine Larson shows pioneers John and Ann Allen looking out over downtown as it appeared long after their own time—including the fictitious grape arbor once thought to have given the city its name. Another wall shows Lower Town and the Huron River, overlooked by the mythical wilderness guide Ann d'Arbeur. While the

grape arbor legend goes back generations, d'Arbeur seems to be a recent invention—though she may even now be taking root in young Ann Arbor psyches: several classes of schoolchildren have already viewed the mural.

Mysterious tees: T shirts with empowering messages are nothing new, but Ann Arbor's Spirituali-T shirts take the concept one step farther: the messages are readable only by the wearer. Former neuroscientist Carole Pfeiffer once studied the effects of various pharmaceuticals on the brain. Now she's made a new career out of positive-affirmation T-shirts whose one-word messages are incorporated into a design and reveal themselves only when viewed upside down. Current offerings include the word peace fashioned out



of the negative space formed by green and yellow pop art, love entwined in the stems of pink daisies, faith in Frank Lloyd Wright—

reminiscent geometrics, and *namaste*, an Indian greeting expressing reverence for others, intricately woven into white scrollwork on a black tee.

Pfeiffer and her partners—husband Pete, artist Chris Rogers, and Chris's wife, Shevon—are planning to expand, using words suggested by people who stopped by their booth at this year's Art Fair—during the day, anyway. Apparently the alcohol-fueled suggestions of many evening fairgoers were a little too blue.

Adult-ed trends: Kickball for adults is in. So are Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese language classes. On the other hand, enrollments in computer classes are plunging-maybe because most Ann Arborites now know at least how to send e-mail. Sara Aeschbach, director of Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation (Rec & Ed), tracks the trends and adjusts accordingly. While some perennials have been offered throughout the eighteen years she's been on the job-oil painting, Spanish, kids' basketball-about 20 percent of each semester's offerings are new. Aeschbach read that kickball for grown-ups was making a comeback, so Rec & Ed offered it for the first time last year. "We had six teams," she recalls. "This year we had twenty-five.'

Old Rec & Ed catalogs would intrigue anthropologists. In

antinopologisi 1974 Ann Arborites could take hippieish courses like batik and tie dyeing, soap making, and introductory astrology—



along with shorthand and typing. Classes and workshops of the 1980s taught locals how to use a food processor, cook with a microwave, and raise kids by using Parent Effectiveness Training. Some 50,000 applications were processed this past year, says Aeschbach, who notes proudly that Rec & Ed survived its spin-off from the regular school budget four years ago and now runs almost entirely on fees.

Top dining: Ann Arbor surfaced again in another of those endless "best of" lists when two local eateries made the Zagat Survey company's

America's
Top
Restaurants for
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West End
Grill and

Grill and Zingerman's

Deli were among twenty metro Detroit eateries (including the Common Grill in Chelsea) out of 1,389 featured nationwide. The listings are based on the opinions of 123,000 restaurantgoers, who also estimate the cost of an average dinner, with one drink. The Zagat list is one of those rare contexts in which Ann Arbor can look like a bargain. Dinner for one at the West End averages \$47, compared to \$53 at Opus One in Detroit and \$81 at the Lark in West Bloomfield. And with no wine list to push up prices, Zingerman's pastrami sandwiches and sides of baked beans or red-skinned potato salad averaged just \$17—the lowest in the region and a fraction of the \$287-per-person tab at Per Se in Manhattan or \$117 at Tru in Chicago. Not that either place needs a boost from Zagat: the West End is generally booked four weeks ahead on weekends, and Zingerman's lines often extend out the door at lunchtime.

The many uses of clay: Next to the bulk mung beans and lemonade mix at the People's Food Co-op are several jars of powdered clay. Do people eat this? "Some people do take clay, particularly the Bentonite clay, internally," says

Laurie Tse, the Co-op's health and beauty care manager—but she cautions, "You need to consult with your health care provider about that." Mostly people buy the clay to make cosmetic face masks. The co-op sells, in addition to the goodenough-to-eat Bentonite clay (\$12.89 a pound), French white and French red clay (both \$11.69) and French green, the aristocrat at \$17.29. Tse says that might sound expensive, but you need just a few teaspoons to make a face mask.

Why clay? "Some people like to get a little more involved with their skin maintenance, rather than just opening a jar,"

she says. The white is the mildest, while the red is the most drying. The red can also be hard to get off, so she recommends it only for people who might have very oily skin. Is there a special recipe? "Take some clay, mix it with some water, and put it on your face," Tse laughs. "It's pretty self directing."

Bootin' up: They arrived in one giant box—900 pounds of cowboy boots, snakeskin and leather, baby sizes and super sizes—perhaps 325 pairs altogether, slightly worn and very worn, in colors ranging from black to pink. They descended on Ann Street from Wisconsin, purchased on eBay by boot lover Vicki Honeyman to sell in her gallery and gift shop, Heavenly Metal.

"Oh, my God. Look at this! . . . I can't wait to find a pair that fit me," exclaimed Honeyman when the shipment arrived last month. Soon she was wearing some "incredibly comfortable" brown Frye boots. Honeyman says she bought her first pair of cowboy boots for \$6.97 at the Denver Value World in 1983; she'd been looking for another pair on-line when she came across the lot being sold by a Wisconsin businesswoman. As soon as they arrived, friends started sorting and shining ("We'll work for

boots," one said happily). Honeyman hopes selling the boots will help pay off debts run up during her year battling

breast cancer—
and she's off to a

good start. Within ten days she sold some 120 pairs for \$20–\$75 a pair.

What does it cost?

\$10—ten holiday cards featuring artwork by "Wish Child Jessica," from the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan

\$25—gift needed to support a night's stay for the family of a hospital patient, at Ronald McDonald House

\$100—gift needed to pay a week's transportation for a community organizer helping citizens fight pollution in their neighborhoods, through the Ecology Center.

\$250—gift that will feed a family of four for six weeks, through Food Gatherers

\$1 million—goal for SOS Community Services' "Housing First" campaign, which will provide affordable housing and services for 100 homeless children for at least two years



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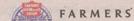
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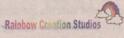




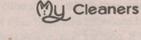


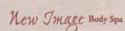




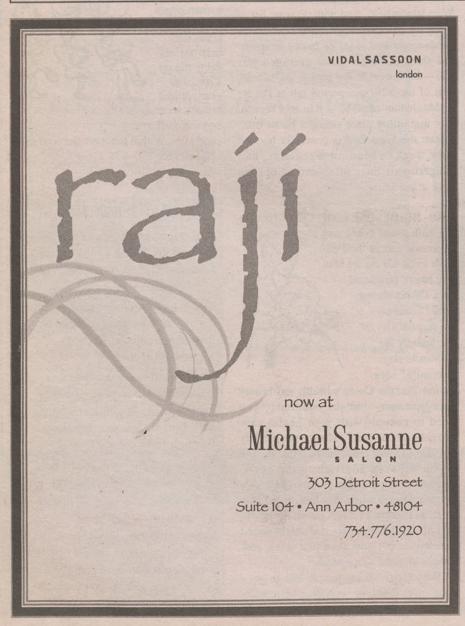








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InsideAnnArbor

Higher Rents Ahead?

After four lean years, landlords look for a turnaround.

Teeks after U-M classes started in September, five apartment buildings owned by five different landlords at State and Kingsley streets sported large banners announcing available apartments. So the good news for apartment hunters is that they can still shop around for good deals. But there's good news for landlords, too: the vacancy rate is dropping-in small increments, but dropping nonetheless.

In the 1990s, being a landlord in Ann Arbor seemed like a can't-miss investment. With 99 percent of the apartments tracked by the U-M's housing office occupied, rents rose at two or three times the rate of inflation. But then came the post-9/11 recession. The vacancy rate soared to 14 percent in 2002 and has since fluctuated between 6 and 8 percent, according to the housing office's survey.

The office hasn't yet calculated this year's vacancy rate, but it's likely to be down. Most of the banners at State and Kingsley were gone by the beginning of November, and landlords say fewer apartments are sitting empty. "The onebedroom and efficiency market really picked up in July," says Nicole Maggard, leasing agent for PMSI. "In July the calls for one-bedrooms went through the roof." The company's seventy-five units were all rented by mid-September.

Local landlord Zaki Alawi says that one landlord he knows rented eighteen apartments in August alone. "It's a phenomenon I've never seen before," says Alawi; he and his wife own sixty-three houses.

Despite the odd wave of summer apartment hunters, rents are almost unchanged since 2002. According to the U-M's survey, the average efficiency cost \$655 last year, just \$11 more than four years earlier. The average one-bedroom inched up from \$732 to \$757, and a two-bedroom from \$1,039 to \$1,053.

When we started leasing last year [for fall 2005], we only raised a few prices," says Crystal Culp of Cappo Management. "Most of them stayed the same. And as it got later in the season, we lowered the prices and negotiated terms as well." Some landlords charge application fees, laundry fees, and parking fees, and then have the option to waive them as incentives to renters. Last year Cappo rented three apartments after school started, and two sat empty until January.

Alawi doesn't fool around with fees: "We just lower the rent to influence decision making." When tenants renew their leases, he usually re-rents at the same rate he charged the previous year. But Alawi says the renters' market is about to end. "Next year we will have a jump in the rents based on what I see right now," he



With apartments sitting vacant, rents around campus have scarcely changed since 2002.

predicts. "This kind of tightening is normally followed by an above-average change in rent."

While the campus-area apartment market seems to be rebounding, outlying apartment complexes are still hard up for tenants. A renter at Ann Arbor Woods received six large postcards from McKinley Properties advertising the Villas at Golfside Lake during July and August. The last boasted two-bedroom apartments starting at \$649-and two months' free rent.

Amy Tilworth of Relocation Central Apartment Search, a company that places tenants in large apartment complexes, says that rents have not gone up in the complexes the company serves-and that about 10 percent of the apartments are sitting vacant.

Outside Art

"Making a business out of Tree Town Murals is my passion," says artist Mary Thiefels.

or the better part of a decade, Thiefels's work has appeared around Ann Arbor, transforming railroad trestles, walls of businesses, and even a humble signal control box (tucked away on North Fourth Avenue by the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market) into artful creations. These high-visibility spots also make handy business cards: her recent work, such as the control box and a sidewalk planter outside Peter Allen Associates on North Main, is signed with her name and-de rigueur in this on-line age-her website's address, www. treetownmurals.com.

Thiefels's first commission came

in 2001, when she and a friend, Cullen Neaton, painted the retaining wall supporting a railroad bridge outside Allen's office. But she'd been embellishing railroad overpasses for years before she was ever paid to. In 1998 Thiefels was among a group of artists arrested for painting under the tracks on Felch Street. Luckily, it turned out that the Ann Arbor Railroad, not the city, owned the property-and the company gladly gave the young muralists permission to have at it. The community response was so supportive that Thiefels kept going, sometimes with other artists, sometimes solo, and a business was born. She and another friend, Michael Anne Erlewine, painted the sports figures on the wall of the Arena Sports Bar, and earlier this year Thiefels completed an Alaskan wilderness scene for Oasis Hot Tubs. A number of private homes also feature her murals, which can run anywhere from \$500 to \$3,000.

Working for clients, of course, means doing what they want, and Thiefels freely admits that a lot of her murals are "fluffy." But she's drawn to murals' tradition of political and social commentary and hopes to move in that direction. "There's a lot that needs to be said, which is why public art is so powerful," says Thiefels, twenty-eight. "It's the people's voice.

"I'm just trying to perfect my skill right now, so I'm doing a lot of things that are safe. But as I get more experienced, I want to raise some eyebrows."

In 2003 she taught a class at Community High School, "Art Inside and Out," in which students explored the history of murals and then painted one under the railroad tracks on Miller Avenue-covering Thiefels's own creation, a sprawling tree



Theifels's career as a muralist got off to a rocky start: in 1998, she was among a group of artists arrested for painting a railroad underpass.





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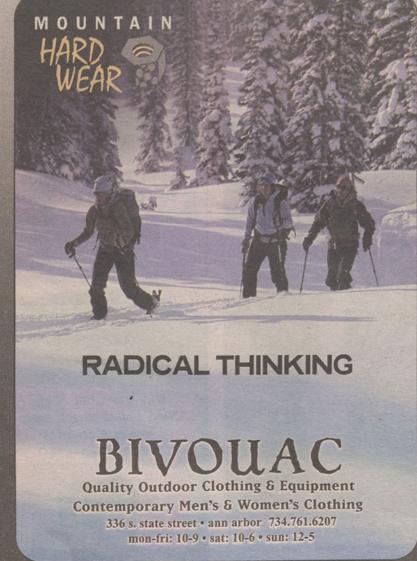


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Inside Ann Arbor continued

that had been there for years. Its loss didn't bother her at all: "Nothing's permanent, right?"

Thiefels considers graffiti—or "what some people call graffiti"—a fact of life, and not necessarily a bad one. "You can't police a space like that, and I'm not going to," she says of her outdoor work. "If someone spray-paints their name or a profanity across something that was speaking to the community, that's disrespect. On the other hand, if someone accents or even covers up but adds something of their own artistic quality, that's respect. . . . It's art in nature; who am I to say that what I'm doing is better than what you have to say?"

Thiefels hasn't abandoned smaller canvases; she still relies on time in the studio (also known as her garage) to refresh herself creatively. Balancing the realism of her murals, her paintings—such as self-portraits, nudes, and still lifes—are more abstract and playful, treating more personal subjects. She'd like to get more paintings into galleries, but for now, murals are her main work—along with teaching adult-education courses, tending bar at Cafe Zola, and finishing her bachelor's degree at Eastern.

As a business, muraling has its ups and downs. In 2005 Thiefels landed her biggest gig yet-a \$40,000 prize to paint a mural on the facade of the Detroit entrance to the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. But expected funding didn't come through, so the sponsors, the Detroit Artists Market and the Detroit & Canada Tunnel Corporation, canceled the project. Thiefels, though, was not about to be left high and dry. Tapping into the free lawyers available through ArtServe Michigan, Thiefels and her attorney worked out an agreement with the tunnel for some compensation and for her images to be used on the tunnel's seventy-fifth-anniversary materials. Her design ended up being used on, among other things, a paperweight and a cake-far smaller than the twenty-byninety-foot mural originally envisioned.

"It was a drama," Thiefels sighs. "But I learned so much [about the management side of art]. I was able to ruffle some feathers, which was important. I just wanted to be compensated for my time—and to show me off a bit."

Decision Time at Maple View

Moving day is approaching for some of the disabled homeless who've helped build a new apartment building.

nside the cream-colored two-story building on Maple Road, near Liberty, a middle-aged man in jeans named Titus Mitchell paused from sweeping up discarded insulation to point to an empty space in front of the still-unfinished Maple View apartments. If everything goes right,



Would-be residents helped build Maple View, the new affordable housing project sponsored by Michigan Ability Partners.

he said hopefully, "I'm going to be staying in that one [apartment]. I like the ground floor."

When a reporter visited in October, Maple View was still several weeks from completion. Michigan Ability Partners, a nonprofit helping people with all kinds of disabilities, built the apartments using the Habitat for Humanity concept: it required potential residents—the main disability for most of them is a history of substance abuse-to work on the construction at least eight hours a week. They earned minimum wage and the promise that they would either be able to live in the building or get help finding housing elsewhere. The requirement, says MAP development director Jan Little, both increases the psychological comfort of the workers and helps them master practical and social skills.

The workers, she says, "are already comfortable with the environment they'll be living in. They know how to take the bus—and the layout of the water heaters." Maple View will include two common areas, and Little is confident that the experience of working together will help the future residents live peacefully together.

The residents will pay a third of their income for rent, and will be required to work at least part time. A case manager will help them with everything from paying bills to laundry to coordinating substance abuse programs. The tenants will also be expected to keep up the grounds.

Supervised by a MAP employee, the workers backed up professional builders. A simplified construction system allowed even unskilled people to contribute. Geraldine, one of the few women on the team, says she was scared the first time she had to drive screws over her head, but she completed the task. Because many of the predominantly male work crew had done some construction work, the learning curve was less steep than it might have been. The hardest thing, says Mitchell, a former grocery store meat cutter who lost

his job because of addictions, was "staying out of each other's way."

When the project began almost a year ago, forty people signed up as workers and potential residents. As MAP organizers anticipated, most of them found permanent housing elsewhere and dropped out. Of the remaining twelve workers, ten will move into Maple View. Making the final cut was "tough," admits Little, although she says MAP is committed to finding housing for the two not chosen.

Happily, both Titus and Geraldine were accepted into the home they helped build. Geraldine says it will be "the first time to have my own space-my own permanent place to live." Organizers hope that people can move in early in 2007.

Prisoners of the Drug War?

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"I want to know exactly what happens to the seven hundred people arrested annually in Washtenaw County for pot—and what happens to other Drug War arrestees in this county."

The person doing the asking is Scio Township trustee Chuck Ream. Soft voiced and amiable—he's a retired kindergarten teacher-Ream is nonetheless a force to be reckoned with in county politics. Two years ago he led the referendum that legalized "medical marijuana" in Ann Arbor. Soon after, he mobilized opposition that killed the county's \$314 million criminal justice millage. Ream's objection: most of the money would go to build and operate 200 additional cells at the county jail—cells that authorities said would be used to ease overcrowding but that he feared would be filled with busted pot-

According to local police officers and prosecutors, though, it takes a real effort to get arrested for marijuana possession in Washtenaw County-and it's all but impossible to be sent to jail for it. "In the last twelve years, I can't think of a time when I sent somebody to jail for [possessing a small quantity of] marijuana," says lieutenant Garth Burnside of LAWNET, the consortium of law enforcement agencies that deals with the county's narcotics crimes. "If we make a bust [on a dealer] and someone's there buying, we usually just tell them to leave.'

Asked how many people his office has prosecuted and jailed for pot, Steve Hiller, the county's deputy chief assistant prosecuting attorney, responds, "Do we prosecute? Yes, we do. Do they go to jail? Nonot for that, anyway. It's not unusual for them to get probation and go through a rehab program. And if they stay clean through probation and complete the program, they can have the conviction wiped off their record."

Asked how many prisoners he has locked up over marijuana, Kirk Filsinger, the commander of the Washtenaw County Jail, replies, "None. I can't remember the last time we had one." Filsinger says most of the prisoners are there either for repeated property crimes (usually theft from a building, usually from students) or for repeated violent crimes (usually domestic assault, usually of wives, girlfriends, or kids). In other words, the jail is chronically overcrowded not with busted potheads but with thieves and wife beaters.

Yet there are prisoners in the county jail whose offense is listed as marijuana possession. So if no one's arresting users, how did they get there? To find out, the Observer examined seven marijuana possession cases in 14B District Court: four folks who've actually done jail time and three folks who haven't done time but might yet if they don't mend their ways.

There were five males and two females, four blacks and three whites, and they were all between eighteen and twentythree. Five still lived at home with their parents, three in Ypsilanti and two in Ann Arbor. One had driven in from Westland to visit friends, and one had moved out to Belleville after conviction. Most didn't own their own cars or have steady jobs. Those who did worked at fast-food joints making about \$200 a week.

All seven were originally charged with possession plus something else: possession plus intent to deliver, possession plus reckless driving, possession plus driving with a revoked license. In every case, all other charges were dropped, and the conviction or guilty plea was for possession only, a misdemeanor under state law. The judges followed sentencing guidelines and put all seven on probation: reporting to a probation officer, submitting to random drug testing, and completing a rehabilitation program. Occasionally some form of community service was included-washing police cars, for example.

All seven consistently failed to meet the terms of their probations. Most just stopped showing up, although one did call to say he wasn't coming anymore because he found probation too harsh. The judges







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Inside Ann Arbor continued

then issued warrants, which eventually led to another round of probation hearings. When four of the seven failed probation for the second or sometimes third time, they were sent to the county jail to serve between 90 and 365 days-with the understanding they'd be released when they completed rehab.

None of the four served a full sentence: because the jail is overcrowded, they were all released early. And with the jail full of thieves and wife beaters, the odds are pretty slim that the four-or anyone else convicted of marijuana possession in Washtenaw County-will ever do more jail time.

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C-SPAN, not CNN

Our November Ann Arborites column mentioned that David Erdody, the founder of Assistive Media, met with Booknotes host Brian Lamb. Erdody emailed to point out that we identified Lamb with the wrong cable network: Booknotes is on C-SPAN-not CNN.

Russia with Love

"Dr. John Wilhelm was being far too modest about his contribution to the interfaith 'Russia with Love' program," wrote Catherine St. Clair, former mission and outreach chair at Memorial Christian Church ("The Second Life of Ph.D.'s," November). "I had the privilege of seeing firsthand John's unstinting efforts to provide partial support to a social worker based in a Moscow church serving the urban poor. His group has been sending them money for emergency food and medical supplies for many years, and in one recent year raised \$18,000 for this cause. . . . May we all do as well in our pursuit of meaning in life!"

Gratzi was Faber's

Bob Faber wrote to point out a gap in our history of the Orpheum Theater building, which now houses Gratzi (Restaurants, November): the business Gratzi replaced in 1983 was not the Orpheum but Faber's Fabrics. "The change from Faber's to Gratzi was immediate and profound," Faber recalled. "Although their sense of fashion was distressingly inadequate, their preparation and presentation of food was immeasurably better than ours. . . . The small refrigerator in the lunchroom, for example, was inadequate to satisfy the luncheon needs of our full staff, but on the other hand, there was never a problem finding space to sit and eat around the room's bridge table."

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Mike Kerr keeps Ann Arbor

t's easy to imagine in our post-

made in megafactories in China, and ar-

made by a city employee named Mike

Kerr, who's been on the job for fifteen

floor of the onetime road commission

garage, across from the Ann Arbor Y. A

bleak structure of iron grillwork and crum-

bling concrete on the outside and much of the inside, it could be one of those govern-

ment buildings featured in cold war docu-

mentaries about the Soviet Union. But in-

cious, filled with the random clutter of in-

dustrial and drafting materials, with coun-

try music playing on a dusty DeWalt radio.

Today, Kerr is replacing a Jackson

Avenue street sign. On a drafting table is

an aluminum blank, nine by thirty inches,

coated with a kelly green reflective plastic

classic bright greens, yellows, and reds of

but up close, a luminous holographic pat-

tern can be seen floating beneath the sur-

face. Before this stuff was invented, signs

Kerr, a careful but relaxed guy, did a

stint in the air force years back, and his de-

meanor bears remnants of it: he answers

questions squarely and politely, offering

precise, efficient answers and often saying

"Well, that's a good question" or "To tell

To make a street sign, he consults the

city assessor's atlas, the authority on street

spellings and locations. Two other refer-

ence books, the federal Manual on Uni-

Michigan Department of Transportation's

law on (or at least strongly suggest) every

possible attribute imaginable: color, font,

size, margin, and so on.

Standard Highway Signs, lay down the

form Traffic Control Devices and the

you the truth, I don't know" when he

doesn't.

were silk screened, and reflective glass

beads were scattered over the wet paint.

city signage look like pure, Crayola colors,

film made by 3M. From a distance, the

side, the sign shop is cheerful and spa-

The sign shop is housed on the second

rive in bales by FedEx. But in fact, all of Ann Arbor's street and traffic signs are

industrial, information age that street

signs are ordered over the Internet,

Kerr doesn't know why the Jackson Avenue sign needed replacing, but it may well have been stolen. "There's a sharp increase in street sign theft when the students come back in the fall," he says.

Kerr feeds the information into a fifteen-year-old computer, and a machine that looks like an old-fashioned dot-matrix printer scribes the five-inch-tall letters from a roll of white reflective film. He uses standard graphic art supplies to mount the letters to the green aluminum blank. And then the sign is done-ready for

Kerr or one of his assistants to attach it to a post and plant it.

Kerr doesn't know why the Jackson Avenue sign needs replacing, but it may well have been stolen: "There's a sharp increase in street sign theft when the students come back in the fall," he says. Favorite targets include Mary Street and other "name" streets near campus.

Whiter Whites

"I use half a sachet for every four togas," says Royal Shakespeare Company costume technician Claire Louise Hardy.

ardy is addressing a question murmured in the lobby of Power Center between acts of the RSC's gory production of Julius Caesar: How do they clean up all that blood? The answer: a British laundry product, Glo White net curtain whitener.

Caesar's assassins drenched their hands-and togas-in blood before the first intermission. Hardy spent the rest of the play in a workroom under the stage, washing the togas before the stains had a chance to set. Each of Caesar's assassins carried a baggie of blood in his pocket, and most of it ended up on the togas for Hardy to deal with. As a result, she had only one day off in the first seventeen of the residency, and rarely left the Power Center before midnight.

The white togas are made of an odd rubbery material that sticks together when it comes in contact with stage blood (a mix of sugar, glycerin, and dye). The toga fabric, Hardy explains, is also used in diaper liners and shower curtains. She thinks it was chosen for its drape and the way it reflects light rather than for its washability. If it was chosen for washability, somebody miscalculated: the fabric develops cracks into which the dye seeps. And it tears easily when the sticky blood starts to dry.

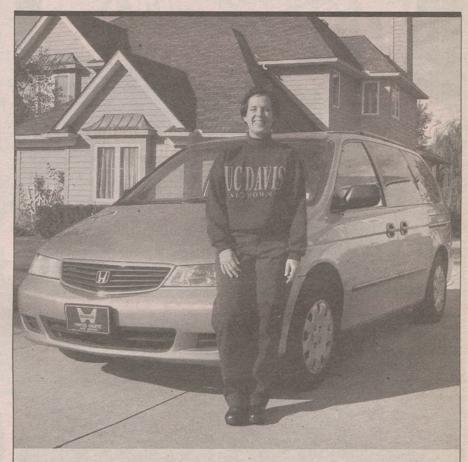
How did Hardy like the Power Center? "Well, it could be better lit," she saysreferring not to any stage specifications, but to a corner washtub where she spent so much of her time.

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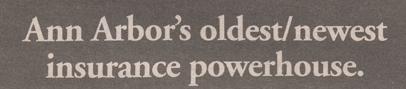
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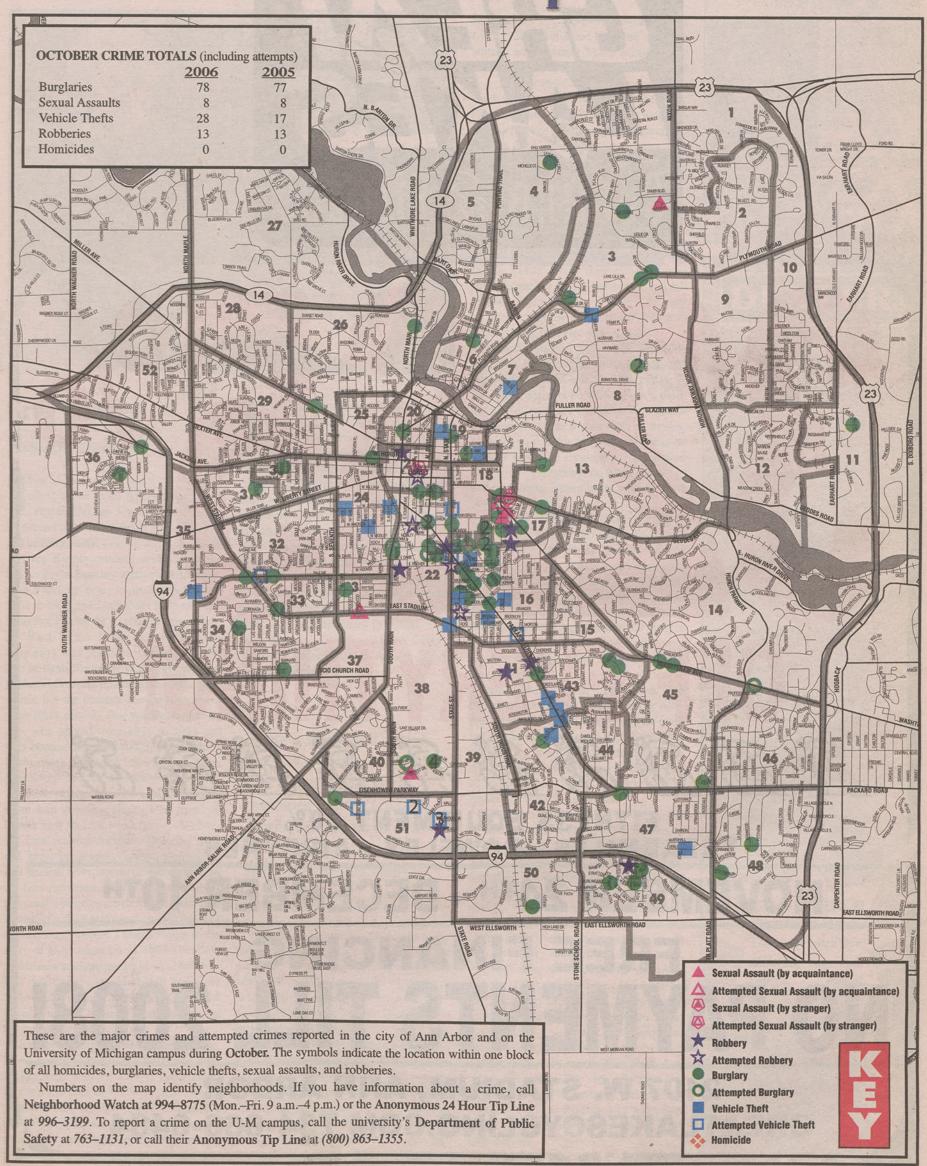
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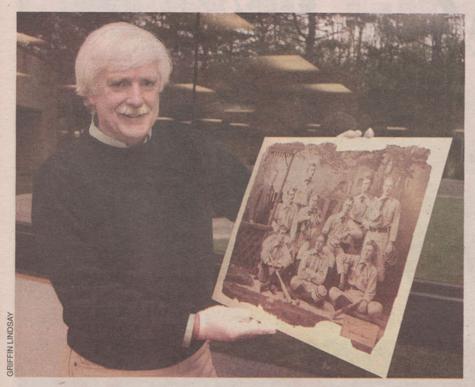
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Ann Arborites



Greg Kinney

Athletic archivist

he U-M football team awarded its first letter to an African American player, George Jewett, in 1892, and its second to Willis Ward in 1932. That's a gap of forty years.

Greg Kinney, athletic archivist at the university's Bentley Historical Library, says Fielding Yost, football coach from 1901 to 1923 and again from 1925 to 1926, "was not known as a racial progressive.

"Back in the 1920s you might have forty guys who practiced, but only twentytwo of them would be in the official team photo. These team photos showed all-white teams, but the practice photographs show three black players. One was Belford Lawson, who played from 1921 to 1923 and later became a federal judge, but we don't know much about the other two of them. I've always been curious about them."

These personal stories intrigue Kinney more than statistics, although he certainly knows how to feed-and flame-Wolverine fans' passion for stats. Drawing from old game programs, rosters, yearbooks, and student newspapers, he has created an on-line database of Michigan football players (bentley.umich.edu/athdept/ football/football.htm) and on-line records of men's and women's teams dating to the start of U-M baseball in 1865 (bentley. umich.edu/athdept/athhist.htm). The football rivalry between Michigan and Ohio State is the subject of the Bentley's most popular on-line exhibit, jointly hosted by the two universities.

Kinney has other duties at the Bentley: being sports archivist is a half-time joint appointment with the athletic department. But it's the part of his work that causes people to ask, enviously, how he landed a sports fan's dream job. Kinney replies quietly, "I was there when they needed

The athletic archives fill 280 boxes in the Bentley's climate-controlled stacks. The boxes stretch more than 250 linear feet, almost the length of a football field. The athletic department itself is the primary user, for its media guides, but fans, journalists, former athletes, and descendants of athletes come as well, often to peruse old scrapbooks dating back to 1902. Recently Billy Watson, grandson of 1930s track star Bill Watson-the first African American to captain a team at Michigan-stopped by to look at photographs and read the archives. Author John Kryk used the archives to research his book Natural Enemies: Major College Football's Oldest, Fiercest Rivalry-Michigan vs. Notre Dame.

Being a sports archivist is the part of Kinney's work that causes people to ask, enviously, how he landed a sports fan's dream job. He replies quietly, "I was there when they needed someone."

"As far as we know, Michigan is the only athletic department that supports an archivist," Kinney says. The idea was first advanced in 1935 by a U-M history professor, but Kinney's position was not created until the early 1990s. Then-athletic director Jack Weidenbach and media relations director Bruce Madej decided they needed professional help to preserve the department's historical artifacts-at the time, baseball photos from the 1880s were stacked on filing cabinets in the basement.

Yost's papers are kept in the archives, along with those of another legendary football coach, Fritz Crisler. Also repre-

sented: Ray Fisher, U-M baseball coach from 1920 to 1958 and longtime women's athletic administrator Marie Hartwig. The papers of Eunice Burns, former assistant dean of education and city council member, trace the university's response to Title IX, which mandated equality for women's sports. But not everything in the archives reflects the U-M's moments of glory. The Eddie Martin basketball booster scandal of the 1990s-a public relations nightmare for the university-is also documented.

Kinney's favorites are the old football and baseball team photographs. "We have an almost complete run of football photographs from 1879 on, except for two years in the 1880s, when they either played spring games or combined spring and fall seasons. Then we have a great collection of action photos from the 1940s and 1950s, when Tom Harmon played."

An archivist's life seems quiet, but Kinney, who is fifty-four, white haired, and mustached, has an adventurous streak. A Wisconsin native who grew up on a dairy farm, he came to the U-M to get a master's in history. But after a year, short on money, he went to Alaska to work for what he thought would be six months-and stayed three years. He worked on offshore oil rigs and on salmon fishing boats in Cook Inlet, near Anchorage.

Working on the boats was very physical, he says, but not too scary, since "you could always see shore, except when it was so foggy you couldn't see anything." The rigs were a different story: "Cook Inlet has the third-greatest tide in the world. At its peak, the tides would change by thirty feet, generating sheets of ice the size of football fields. They'd give the rig a pretty good shake when they crashed into the platform."

Interestingly, his first real brush with Michigan sports was in the Alaskan summer baseball leagues. All-American quarterback and center fielder Rick Leach was playing for the Kenai Peninsula Oilers, and pitcher Steve Howe was with the Anchorage Glacier Pilots. Kinney went to games when he was in Kenai.

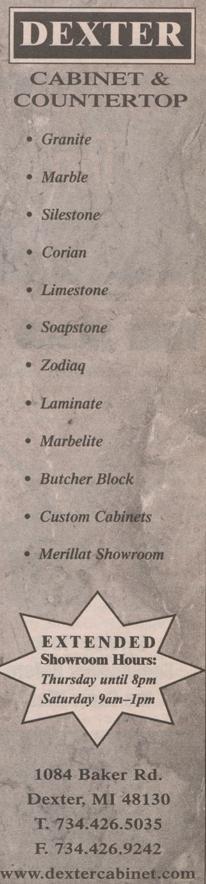
Eventually Kinney returned to the U-M. He began working at the Bentley in 1986, while he completed two master's degrees, one in history and the other in information and library studies. Kinney, who is single and lives in Pittsfield Village, frequently volunteers at the Ark, and reads extensively in American history.

Not surprisingly, his work has made him the master of Michigan sports trivia. Although most Michigan sports fans know that the U.S. president who played Michigan football is Gerald Ford, Kinney has a Michigan football trivia stumper: "Who were the two brothers of presidents who played Michigan football?"

One is an easy reach: Tom Ford, Jerry's half-brother. The other Kinney discovered on a 1912 roster: "E. Eisenhower." Dwight Eisenhower's brother Edgar played while attending the U-M Law School.

-Peggy Page





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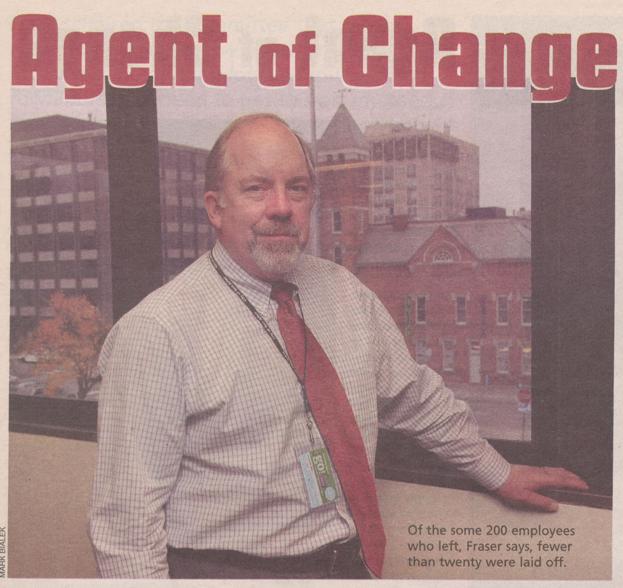
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by Eve Silberman

antv.

ity administrator Roger Fraser looks—and sounds—slightly disdainful when The House is mentioned.

Two days before, a prominent headline in the Ann Arbor News read "Fraser Again Shuns City Life." The story pointed out that for the second time in his four and a half years on the job, Fraser had purchased a house outside the city: he'd spent \$417,000 on a home in Loch Alpine, off Huron River Drive in Webster Township. Previously Fraser and his wife, Sue, had lived in Scio.

Fraser protests that the *News* implied his choice of homes was "somehow related to taxes. The point I tried to make to them is [that] my wife and I have our own expectations about a house and we've tried to find something within the corporate limits of the city that would meet them—and we didn't. It's as simple as that."

City employees aren't required to live in the city. But Fraser, a would-be politician forced by life exigencies to subsume his ambitions in city management, knows full well that, fairly or not, his choice carries symbolic weight. Council members say they've heard from constituents annoyed that the city's most important employee is choosing to live outside the city. Even mayor John Hieftje, usually Fraser's strongest ally, comments, "I'm not happy about it. I would much prefer the administrator of the city live in the city."

It's a measure of Fraser's self-confidence that he whipped out his checkbook anyway, knowing that while his eleven bosses on city council might be displeased, they're solidly in his corner. "Roger is a much better manager than anyone who's been head of the city" in recent years, maintains Hieftje. Council member Leigh Greden describes Fraser as "very driven and very committed to moving Ann Arbor forward in a very difficult time." And even council

member Marcia Higgins—who told the *News* she was "disappointed" Fraser bought outside the city—says that on a scale of five, she'd give him a four.

City administrator is one of Ann Arbor's most conspicuous—and precarious—jobs. But Fraser, sixty, a native Michiganian who bounced around the country before returning home, appears to have his hands firmly on the wheel.

The ride has been bumpy. Fraser's predecessor, Neal Berlin, began to reduce the size of city government to cut costs. Berlin initiated a controversial early-retirement proposal that, over a couple of years, sped up the departure of 132 employees. When Berlin himself left, former parks boss Ron Olson and Downtown Development Authority director Susan Pollay held the city together until Fraser came on board, in April 2002.

He arrived with a directive: further reduce the core of city government. He launched an ambitious reorganization, dissolving and combining departments, showing a few employees the door, and reassigning others.

Early on, Fraser butted heads with the fire department, after he closed a station and quashed a setup that promoted soon-to-retire fire officials, apparently to maximize their pensions. At one point Fraser—himself the son of a volunteer fire chief—even made himself acting fire chief. Though he said the move was justified under the city charter, the firefighters challenged it, and county prosecutor Brian Mackie agreed; Fraser stepped down after about six weeks.

Despite that setback, the reorganization and retirements achieved their goal: 200 fewer people work for the city now than in 2001. That's a 20 percent reduction, and Fraser calculates that it will save city \$13 million this year alone.

Now Fraser is focused on finding a new home for

Strong-willed administrator Roger Fraser figured out how to run the city with 200 fewer workers. Now he's pushing for a decision on the contentious issue of a new police station and courthouse.

both the crowded police department and the Fifteenth District Court (in a temporary arrangement, it's been leasing space from the county). On paper, that looks easier than reshuffling the whole deck of cards representing city employees. But nothing comes easy in a city where everyone's an expert. At a council working session in late October, it appeared that a proposal to build the new facility on the parking lot next to the downtown library was falling apart. Fraser had chaired the committee that recommended building there. "I need to get this off my chest," he bluntly told his bosses. "I find your discussion frustrating."

Later, Fraser explains his exasperation. The aging, overcrowded City Hall is "a recurring issue that has been studied and looked upon and decided upon before I got there," he points out, "and yet nothing happened." He says that the committee seemed to be "following the direction of the council—only the council was split on it."

Fraser's outspokenness "illustrated his comfort level in council," says Hieftje. And frustrated or not, everyone expects Fraser to be here, there, and everywhere as the contentious issue plays itself out—on the pages of the *Ann Arbor News*, in the corridors of City Hall, and in front of the TV cameras at the Monday night council meetings.

t's 7 o'clock on a morning in June, and about forty people on chairs are gathered in a rough semicircle in the barnlike city garage on Washington Street. Fraser stands in front of them, dressed in a cream-colored shirt and green pants. Solidly built, Fraser has a high, round forehead, a receding but carefully combed supply of silvery brown hair, and a definite set of the jaw. This meeting is one in a series of informal monthly get-togethers for employees all over the city. Today's group consists of parks and maintenance staff, and what they most want to talk about is the rapidly approaching expiration of their contract as members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

The city's contract proposal calls for AFSCME workers to start contributing toward the cost of their health insurance (currently, they are charged only co-pays). Fraser is blunt but not hostile, mingling defense of the city's position with concern for the uneasy workers. "It's not like we have sprung this [proposed contract] on AFSCME," he says. "We can get this [negotiation] done, and we want to get it done." One woman with shoulder-length hair com-

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"I understand your comment,' Fraser tells her. "I don't agree with it. I can tell you from my perspective public safety has taken the brunt for the last several years." (Thirty police positions and about twenty-six fire department jobs have been eliminated in the past few years.)

Someone asks whether he can write a letter to the Ann Arbor News. "Just be sure you don't do it here," Fraser says, and several people laugh.

More outgoing than the guarded Berlin, Fraser wears his power lightly. He listens carefully, and usually speaks in the language of everyday people rather than the bloated jargon of bureaucrats. He has a sense of humor-Leigh Greden goes so far as to call him "jolly." For example, asked whether any of his five siblings have also gone to work in the public sector, he replies, not missing a beat, "No. They were smarter." Ann Ar-

city, Tübingen, last year say that Roger and Sue Fraser were engaging, enthusiastic companions.

Berlin was so wary of being caught up in council infighting that he had it put in his contract that council people were not to give him orders individually. Fraser, in contrast, keeps an open-door policy. On his recent self-evaluation, he even stressed that he wanted to meet more with individual council members, to better understand

His characteristic affability was tested during the three-year reorganization. The process-which involved an outside consultant, lots of meetings between and within departments, and questionnaires-was enormously stressful for almost everyone in City Hall. When the dust settled, the survivors looked around and found their world transformed. The city's fourteen independent departments had been consolidated into four areas: safety services, headed by new police chief Barnett Jones; financial and administrative services,

borites who traveled to our German sister headed by former Ford executive Tom Crawford; public services, under Sue Mc-Cormick; and community services, led by Jayne Miller. (Jones and Crawford came in under Fraser; Miller and McCormick were already employed by the city.)

Of the 200-some people who left, only a handful-fewer than twenty-were laid off, according to Fraser. The others chose to retire or take other jobs. Among the most prominent exiles were Ron Olson (now running the state parks system) and planning director Karen Popek Hart (now running Ypsilanti's planning department). Popular with their staffs, both left under pressure, say past and present employees. (Olson and Hart won't discuss their departures.) Fraser also stripped the volunteer members of the planning commission of their authority over the planning director-something, he says, he'd never heard of outside of Ann Arbor. The planning director position was eliminated, and a newly hired "planning and development services manager," Mark Lloyd, reports to Miller.



A shared sense of urgency has made Fraser and mayor John Hieftje an extremely effective team. "Roger is a much better manager than anyone who's been head of the city" in recent years, says Hieftje.

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Fraser chaired the committee that recommended building a new police and court facility on the parking lot next to the downtown library. "I need to get this off my chest," Fraser bluntly told council in October when it appeared that the plan was falling apart. "I find your discussion frustrating."

Besides reducing the number of bosses, the reorganization gave the city more flexibility in managing its workforce. "One of the difficulties that we had [was] the job titles," Fraser says. Previously, for example, union rules prevented maintenance workers assigned to the streets department from filling in when help was needed in the solid waste department. "We consolidated all these various units into one operation called field services," explains Fraser. Now workers can move easily from one job to another, to meet the city's changing needs.

Hieftje and Berlin started the downsizing because they wanted to reduce the city's operating budget. They planned to use the savings to fund some long-deferred capital improvements, including the new police and court facilities. This year, the city general fund is budgeted at \$77 million. Without the reorganization, Fraser says, it could have reached \$90 million.

But most of the savings was quickly swallowed up as the city was squeezed between revenue cuts and rising costs. In 2000-2001, the city received approximately \$14 million in revenue sharing. "Today, that number is somewhere between eight and nine million," says Fraser. And health care costs have jumped from 10 to 12 percent a year for the past five years.

Meanwhile, the \$13 million question is, Has reducing the work force by a fifth meant skimping on services to citizens? When asked, Fraser is quick to give an anecdote. Two winters ago, he says, during the biggest snowstorm in years, the city had "absolutely the fewest complaints about snow removal that we've ever had," even though it had "fewer people working in that area." Says Hieftje, "You can make a very strong case that City Hall is running more efficiently than [it has] in forty or fifty years." Indeed, thanks to what Fraser calls "the will and skill of both the current administration and city council," even some of the city's long-neglected infrastructure is being replaced. A new, \$34 million maintenance facility and garagewhich, like the new police station, had been discussed for at least three decadesis now under construction south of Ells-

But even Hieftje and Fraser, the reorganization's most vocal champions, don't claim there haven't been problems. "Our park programs are taking a very hard hit," Fraser acknowledges. The city went from six park rangers to one. Many Ann Arborites complained about the unkempt appearance of parks and playing fields. "Ann Arbor has the worst soccer fields in southeastern Michigan," says soccer dad and former council member Joe Upton-who adds that when he coaches Little League

baseball, "the grass is five or six inches deep." To a lot of people's relief, the passage of November's parks millage-most of which will go toward park maintenance-should improve the situation.

The dissolution of the planning department has met with mixed reactions. Recently retired city planner Donna Johnson says that the changes have made the process "a lot more streamlined. It's a good thing, having planning and building and historic preservation all come together." Former planning commissioner Jennifer Hall (who stepped down last spring) says that while the changes troubled her at first, she is now pleased, and praises manager Mark Lloyd for his accessibility. "We have a much greater awareness of the entire planning process of the city," she says.

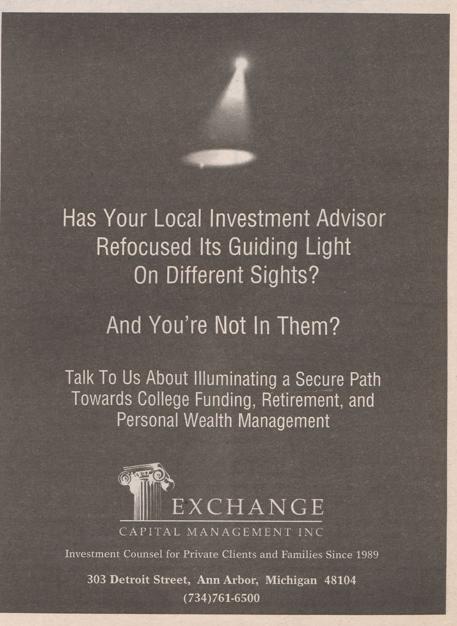
On the other hand, a longtime developer, who didn't want to be named, says that the change has caused nothing but confusion. It is hard getting a "direct answer" from anyone involved in planning issues, including Lloyd, he says. He says he tells other developers to "go see their council person" with questions rather than go through the new community services department.

Apart from park issues, council members say they have heard little from the general public about the reorganization. The reaction of City Hall employees, of course, has been much stronger. The workforce is stressed out, says AFSCME president Jim Williams, "because the city is trying to do the same amount of work with less people."

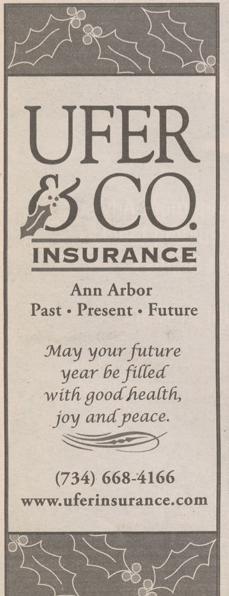
Fraser doesn't try to fudge the results of a staff survey a couple of years ago that showed widespread discontent. He says that the city is responding by bringing employees together in teams to hash out issues making them unhappy, and he believes that morale has improved since the survey. "I see my role here as being a facilitator of organizational strength building," he says.

Well liked by subordinates at his previous job, in Blaine, Minnesota, Fraser seems sincere in his efforts to reach out to his embattled staff; recently, concerned that not enough employees were showing up at his early morning garage sessions, he began appearing at regular staff meetings instead. In the end, though, both he and the rest of the workforce know that their happiness comes second to the greater mission of keeping the city solvent. One disaffected worker reflects that city council representatives don't know how "bad morale is in City Hall." But even if they did, concedes this person, it probably wouldn't change anything: "They're there to reflect the citizens, not the staff."









Agent of Change

continued

n late January 2002, the day after council voted to offer Fraser the top job, he was on a plane going to Colorado to interview for another city administrator position. No one in Ann Arbor had called to tell him about council's decision. (He had interviewed several months before and, hearing nothing, assumed he hadn't made the final cut.) Although Fraser had already decided to accept the Ann Arbor job if offered-a major attraction was that it was close to his and Sue's adult children from their previous marriages-he negotiated hard for the position, aware, he says, "of the council's reputation for volatility." Council agreed to pay him \$133,000—then the highest salary for any city administrator in the state.

At this point in his career, Fraser is, as former police chief Dan Oates describes him, "a consummate pro" when it comes to city politics. He had managed three cities—Blaine and the small Colorado cities of Loveland and Englewood. For a decade before that, he was deputy city manager of Aurora, Colorado, a booming Denver suburb. (Coincidentally, Oates left Ann Arbor for Aurora earlier this year.)

Not every experience had been happy. In Loveland, most of the council people who hired Fraser stepped down within six months of his arrival. The new group, as he tells it, "couldn't agree on the time of day, let alone what they wanted me to do." The revamped council fired him less than a year later—and then went through four more managers in six years.

In Englewood, where he went next, Fraser experienced a crisis that made him seriously consider leaving the public sector. The city was struggling financially, and Fraser had recommended (as he was later to do in Ann Arbor) closing a fire station. As a result, he says, he was attacked personally by a firefighter who was also an evangelical minister. When his critics spread false rumors that he and Sue, then married eight years, were on the verge of divorce, Fraser began to think that low-profile work in the private sector might be nice.

Then he had an epiphany. He attended a conference of city managers that included a panel discussion involving people who had left city management—and who, to varying degrees, missed the work. "I left that conference reinvigorated in my commitment to this profession," says Fraser, "because they reminded me in that session of what makes this [job] very special, And for me that translates into the ability to do for a community things that help make their lives be better."

Fraser clearly enjoys his power—but he's sincere when he talks about the importance of good government. He grew up in an apartment above his family's grocery store in Franklin, Michigan, northwest of Detroit. His early memories include his mom dispatching phone calls to the village's volunteer firefighters, and his dad heading off on the truck to put out the flames.

Fraser's father eventually had to sell the store and go to work at a local A&P supermarket. The fourth of six children, Fraser recalls a happy family life and was surprised to discover, when he applied to college, that the family had been living at the federal poverty level. Fraser earned a degree from the U-M-Dearborn in 1968 and was drafted right afterward. He had married his first wife in his sophomore year; their son Ron was born when he was in the service in Germany.

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Returning, he expected to go to law school and attempt politics on some level. But his family's needs-by then he also had a daughter, Angela-meant he had to put those ambitions aside. He began working in labor relations in Oakland County, negotiating with union bargaining teams, and later became personnel and labor relations director for Muskegon County. Deciding that his future was in the public sector, he earned a Master of Public Administration degree at Western Michigan. Then came the move to Colorado, where, after his first marriage ended, he met and married Sue, a Colorado native who, like him, had a young son and daughter.

That was twenty-four years ago, and the children are all grown. In fact, between them, Roger and Sue have ten grandchildren—one reason they wanted a goodsized house.

n a much smaller scale, Fraser cut staff and retrenched before, in Englewood. In Blaine, Minnesota, however, he helped a modest old farming and trailer-park town reinvent itself as an upscale Minneapolis suburb. "Roger was creative, and he had a vision," says longtime Blaine councilwoman Katherine Kolb. Although Fraser left before the town's metamorphosis was complete-it recently made Money magazine's list of top 100 "livable cities," Kolb notes proudly-"a lot of the change had to do with the groundwork Roger laid." Key to the revival, recalls Fraser, was getting a high-end golf club to move in and getting an unsightly asphalt plant to move out (a condition the golf club made). For three years Fraser courted the asphalt plant's owner over lunch-"It took a lot of cajoling and hand holding," he recalls-until he agreed to relocate.

Although property values in Blaine shot up dramatically, some old-timers were angry at the gentrification. Meetings to discuss the changes became heated, but Fraser kept things in control. In an Ann Arbor News article published when Fraser was selected, a city official described a meeting where some 100 outraged citizens were upset about a street widening the city planned. Some shouted profanities at city officials. Unabashed, Fraser stood in the front of the room and called for calm. He quieted the audience down enough to listen to him. "We were all impressed," the city employee told the News.

Though the Ann Arbor City Council is solidly behind him, there have been clashes. Council rep Joan Lowenstein, a Fraser fan, was upset over what she calls the "debacle" of the emerald ash borer millage last year, when voters rejected the city's request for a temporary tax to speed removal of trees killed by the pest. Fraser, she complains, didn't give council enough information on alternatives to the millage, "We went in supporting something we didn't have all the facts on, and it wasn't successful," Lowenstein says.



"Repair time": at home in Loch Alpine, Fraser tinkers with cars, works on home remodeling projects, and spends time with his family he and his wife have ten grandchildren. n in 1968 d. He had ophomore en he was

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"We have talked to Roger about better communication."

Fraser ruffled some feathers at a Downtown Development Authority meeting two years ago when he presented a plan to expand City Hall-a plan that assumed that the DDA would contribute \$15 million to the project. It was the first the group had heard of it-and the administrator's approach, recalls a former DDA member, was "fairly heavy handed." However, adds this person, Fraser may just have taken his marching orders from the mayor, a DDA member: "Roger may have walked into a set of political tensions that he was not aware of." The DDA's reluctance to fund a City Hall addition pushed the city to look at moving the police and court to the li-

City council representative Steve Rapundalo says some constituents have told him they'd like to see the city administrator be more visible in the community. Told about that request, Fraser looks a little exasperated. He says that while he shops in the city and attends events here (including meetings of the prestigious downtown Rotary Club), he needs what he calls "repair time" away from all reminders of his job, including time with his extended family, several of whom live within driving distance.

Fraser has a full life outside the office. Apart from family time, he plays tennis, tackles home remodeling projects, and tinkers with his cars-and enjoys replacing them frequently. (A picture in his office shows a red 1969 Camaro that he rebuilt.)

Ann Arbor's government is usually described as having a "strong" city administrator and a "weak" mayor. Depending on the individuals who have filled the jobs, this has not always been the case. Currently the city has both a strong mayor (Hieftje, a former Realtor, devotes himself full time to City Hall) and a strong administrator. Their shared sense of urgency has made them an extremely effective team.

Fraser thrives on challenges, says former Republican city council member Mike Reid, who served on council during Fraser's first two years. "He's an effective agent of change," says Reid. If the City Hall job were just maintaining the status quo, Reid suggests, Fraser would get bored.

That's not likely to happen anytime soon. Putting together the pieces of the police station and courthouse, already contentious, should test Fraser's political talents. So should running the city on fewer and fewer state dollars. "We estimate that over the course of the next three or four years, we have to reduce our expenditures by about eight million dollars," Fraser says. That's why the city is hanging tough in negotiations with AFSCME over health

Fraser says that when he first started reorganizing the city, an attitude existed that "we're going to wait you out and you'll be gone." That attitude may have changed. "I haven't yet figured out what I would do if I wasn't doing this," he says. "I've been assuming ten years [here] is sort of a minimum for me." Others need to approve that timeline, of course. But Fraser doesn't sound worried.





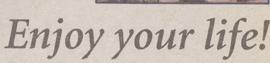


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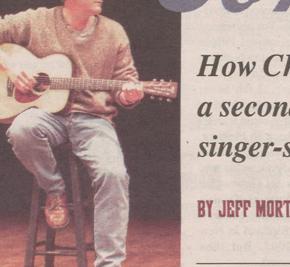
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How Chelsea's movie star launched a second career —as a touring singer-songwriter.

BY JEFF MORTIMER

When you perform your own work, Daniels says, "There's no interference. There's no filter."

ho gave Jeff Daniels the idea that he could be a touring singer-songwriter? Why, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, of course.

In 1997 Lanford Wilson was in Chelsea for a production of his Hot L Baltimore at Daniels's Purple Rose Theater. The men have been friends since their time together at New York's famed Circle Repertory Company in the 1970s. And because they went back so far, Wilson knew something about Daniels that even many locals never guessed: their homegrown movie star was also a musician.

In fact, one of Daniels's last acts before leaving his hometown for New York in 1976 was to buy a Guild D-40 guitar at Herb David Guitar Studio. But though he continued to play, sing, and write songs, music faded into the background as his film career took off. He's made more than forty movies in the last twenty-five years, playing everything from a dashing lover in The Purple Rose of Cairo to a lovable klutz in Dumb & Dumber

By the time Daniels and his wife, Kathleen, moved back to Chelsea in 1986, only those closest to him knew about his music. The secret held even after he founded the Purple Rose and developed a local reputation as a playwright. Then Wilson came to town-and blew his cover. "One night in Cleary's Pub, he made me get my guitar and play for everyone," recalls Daniels. "Lanford said, 'You really need to share this side of yourself with people.'

"He probably made it okay for me to get past the actor's-now-a-singer thing. He thought I was good, so I went to work at getting better."

That night's performance at a Chelsea bar eventually led to Daniels's current tour as a singer-songwriter (which included a November 25 concert at the Michigan Theater). But it's been a long and winding road. Lounging on a couch in his Purple Rose office, dressed in blue jeans and a flannel shirt, Daniels, fifty-one, picks idly and intermittently at a guitar as he recalls

It was not until 2001, four years after his impromptu concert, that he voluntarily climbed onstage as a musician. Even then, it was only to help out his beloved Purple Rose. Traditionally the theater was dark for two weeks over the holidays, but the crowds who had come to Detroit the previous December to see Daniels's play Escanaba in da Moonlight made him aware there was a potential audience.

"When I said, 'We should do something those two weeks,' the staff said, 'The only thing that makes sense from a production standpoint is to have you walk out there with your guitar'-at which point it became something I wish I had never

brought up," Daniels recalls.

'Oh, my God, I was terrified. It wasn't just that whole thing of 'If I really wanted to do this publicly, I would have gone out the last twenty-five years,' but also the voice of the little man on your shoulder going 'You're going to forget the words' and 'The next one is A minor. What's next? The F! The F! Go to the F!' But we sold it out, and it was a great fund-raiser

Among those in the audience one night was Jim Fleming, president of Fleming Artists, an Ann Arbor booking agency that represents, among others, Ani DiFranco, Tom Paxton, and the Capitol Steps. After the show, he approached Daniels about joining his roster.

"The obvious reason is that he has instant recognition in terms of the marketplace out there," says Fleming. "So you're kind of way ahead of the game just with that alone. But the thing that made me want to sign him was going to see him perform, and as I told him that night, 'Wow, I'm really glad you're good.'"

hat wasn't how Daniels saw it. "Jim was very nice, but I told him I still wasn't happy with what I was doing," Daniels recalls. "The guitar playing wasn't where I wanted it to be. Those shows were to raise money, and people were very forgiving. I thanked him for his interest, but to go anywhere else, I needed to get better."

Daniels has always had doubts about his musical ability-even when DiAnn L'Roy first spotted his talent back in mid-

L'Roy was Daniels's music teacher and choir director from sixth grade through high school. "The fact that he now is returning to songwriting and performing doesn't surprise me at all," she says, "because the ability and the interest to do those sorts of things were manifested early

L'Roy, who later founded the Chelsea Players, was also in charge of the Chelsea High School theater program. Daniels says his acting career began when she shanghaied him into a bit part in South Pacific.

"I was literally walking past the auditorium after basketball practice as a sophomore," Daniels remembers. "It was as if she were waiting for me. She put me onstage, with wet hair and dead tired, and cast me as one of the sailors dancing to Luther Billis."

"I had several students during those years who had unusually good abilities, but none like Jeff," recalls L'Roy, who now works for Citigroup in Texas and directs choirs. "It was just so obvious that he had ability that needed to be developed. He had, like, three lines in South Pacific, but he basically dominated the scene. It wasn't that he was being flamboyant, but he took what he was given and made something out of it."

In a way, L'Roy did the same with him. "When you're in public school, teaching or coaching or anything else, you have the talent that's given to you by way of the parents," she says. "I always tried to pick shows that showed off the best and hid the rest. If I had singers, I went with singer plays.'

And that's how Daniels found himself playing Fagin in Oliver, Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof, Harold Hill in The Music Man, and Snoopy in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. "It seemed endless," he says, "but I kind of learned on my feet what to do in front of six hundred people

L'Roy also spied writing talent in her protégé. When she got a Michigan Council for the Arts grant to fund original works, she asked Daniels, who had just graduated, to write one of them. Long before he launched his mature playwriting career, his first piece of stagecraft was a musical.

"He wrote the play, wrote the music, and accompanied the performance on the piano," says L'Roy. "It wasn't exactly Rodgers and Hammerstein, but it was pretty good."

Daniels's judgment is a little different. "I remember writing this lame musical called Polite Applause and banging out some songs on the piano," he says. "Although I liked the idea of writing for the stage, I had no idea what I was doing, but DiAnn thought I could do it.

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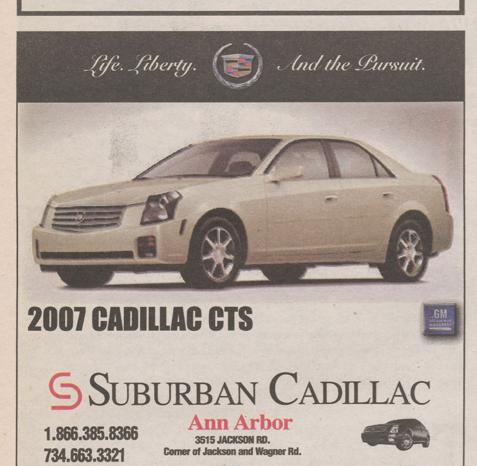
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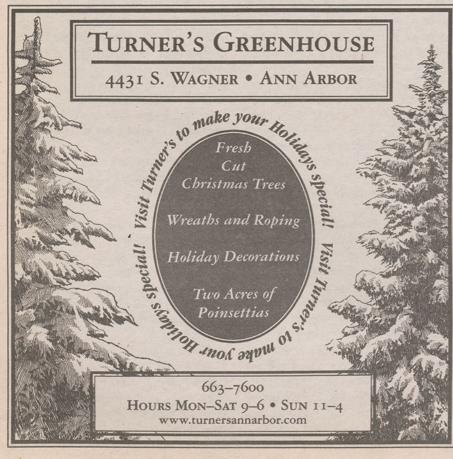
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"After hearing my songs and listening to me pound the keys in some amateur impression of Elton John, I remember her saying, 'You know, playing an instrument is more than just hearing how it sounds.' That was her way of saying 'Go study music.' '

aniels never did get around to studying music formally. But his singing show became an annual Purple Rose fund-raiser-and in between, he worked on his musicianship.

"After about two years, I felt better about what I was doing and had kind of refined the show so I felt it could travel," he says. Daniels went back to Fleming, who didn't need any persuading. "I actually thought he was ready to go out and perform after I first saw his show at the Purple Rose," Fleming stresses. Daniels played his first professional concert, booked by Fleming, at Birdland in New York City in April 2005. But then Daniels's other life intervened.

"We've got to book [music] dates months ahead of time, but I can get a phone call and be in Toronto or L.A. tomorrow," says Daniels. "Somebody drops out of a big film, there's money, and suddenly you're in front of a camera."

Shortly after signing Daniels, Fleming got a call from him. Robin Williams had offered him a part in RV, and the summer tour the agency had just put together would have to be canceled.

"I have to say, to his credit, that he really worked with us and went out of his way to help us reschedule those dates," says Fleming. "He has all the things you look for in a working relationship with an artist. He's very good at what he does, a reasonable person to deal with, a nice guy-and he's decisive, which is a very attractive thing when you're dealing with artists."

Though name recognition helps get his foot in the door, the quality of Daniels's shows keeps the bookings coming, Fleming says. This fall and winter, his touring schedule is taking him from Maine to the Pacific Northwest. "His attendance figures aren't as high in other parts of the country, as a rule," says Fleming. "But, without exception, the promoters have all said they want to have him back after they've seen the show and the audience's response to him."

Daniels's appeal was on display in September at a gig at the Macomb Center in Clinton Township. He kept a crowd of 1,100, just shy of the hall's capacity, gleefully engaged throughout his two-hour show. They were rapt for the poignant "Grandfather's Hat," they roared for the darkly hilarious "Have a Good Life, Then Die," they empathized with "Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," they danced to "The Big Bay Shuffle," and several of them accepted his invitation to sing, jam, and boogie with him onstage.

"There are certain things I do to get 'em

going and bring 'em in and get over the fact that I'm the guy from Dumb & Dumber," Daniels explains. "Then you kind of read the audience as you go, whether they're hanging on every word or whether they really want to laugh. There are places that surprise you. I played Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, an older crowd, a moneyed crowd, and man, were they ready to laugh and go. Anything remotely off color sent them. It was just great."

Equally though differently great was his experience at Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield, Wisconsin, this past summer. "It's a tent, a circus tent, and you pull up and go . . . 'What?'" he says. "Then you walk in, and the stage and the lighting and the sound system are like something Springsteen would have at Joe Louis Arena. Then you look at the people who have played there-Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Leo Kottke, David Bromberg-and you go 'Okay, shut up.' And did those people listen. It was all about the song.'

Even the critics have been complimentary. "Offering a combination of surprisingly delicate blues guitar playing and quirky, indelicate comedy, Daniels puts on one helluva smart and funny show," wrote theatermania.com's Barbara and Scott Siegel after catching a show in New York City. "He knew we were all surmising that he was just another in a long line of famous people who use their celebrity status to try to be something they're not-in this instance, a singer-songwriter. Then Daniels drily performed his first number, 'If William Shatner Can, I Can Too,' and

The song is Daniels's response to the "actor's-now-a-singer thing." It begins,

Captain Kirk's gotta sing the blues, Just another celebrity with nothin' to lose. Singin' for my supper with my hat in my

Well, I'm Hollywood's answer to a Renaissance man.

"The good news is that Jeff Daniels is no Shatner," the Lansing State Journal's Chris Rietz wrote in a review of his 2004 CD Jeff Daniels Live and Unplugged. "Despite [his] outsized celebrity, Live is a winner for the same reason any good songwriter's would be: it's musical, funny, honest, and uncomplicated, and rendered by someone who knows how to be onstage."

Fleming agrees that Daniels's theater experience gives him an edge: "I think the difference for Jeff is that he uses his acting background onstage. He's not trying to be a rock star. He's just being himself-but part of being himself is all those skills."

Live and Unplugged, whose proceeds benefit Purple Rose, consists almost entirely of original songs. The lone exception is "Michigan, My Michigan," written in 1864 by Detroiter Winifred Lee Brent and set to the tune of "O Tannenbaum." He dedicates it "to every Michigan soldier in Afghanistan and Iraq, especially those who won't be coming back." Daniels's second CD, Grandfather's Hat, was scheduled for release in late November. He's been so busy touring that he isn't doing his annual Purple Rose Unplugged holiday stint.

Daniels's own songs are accessible and personal. He describes falling in love with t over the & Dumbou kind of , whether or whether are places oits Opera crowd, a they ready ely off col-

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IN PERFORMANCES, DANIELS OFTEN INVITES AUDIENCE MEMBERS ONSTAGE TO JAM WITH HIM— AS HE DID WITH FORMER ANN ARBOR MAYOR INGRID SHELDON AT ONE OF HIS PURPLE ROSE SHOWS.

his wife in "Kathy," and finding himself, my side, I come out and tell that story and twenty-five years later, unable ever to win an argument from her in "If I Weren't So Stupid, You Wouldn't Be So Smart." "Mile 416" is a poignant reflection on driving past a white cross en route from Vancouver to Michigan, and "Blue Valiant" a nostalgic paean to his first car.

And every once in a while, Daniels gives a shout-out to his day job. Besides the Shatner song, there's "Dirty Harry Blues," in which he describes what a thrill it was to be killed on screen by Clint Eastwood (in the 2002 movie Blood Work).

ast November Daniels went to East Lansing to catch the "Four Songwriters" tour, which teamed his old friend Lyle Lovett with Guy Clark, Joe Ely, and John Hiatt. He met up with Lovett backstage at Michigan State University's Wharton Center-but never bothered to mention that he himself had played the Wharton Center six months before.

"Lyle's walking down the hallway before the show, and he sees a picture on the wall of me with a guitar," recalls Daniels. "He says, 'Wait a minute. You play. . . . You want to sit in with us?"

Daniels didn't even have his guitar with him, but he didn't hesitate: "I said, 'Yesand now I can die.'

"Halfway through the show, Lyle sets me up with an introduction. Guy Clark hands me his guitar. I sit down. There's Joe Ely, Lyle, Hiatt, Clark, and two thousand people. I play 'Have a Good Life, Then Die.' The place went nuts. I thanked everyone, left, and was just so happy and so relieved.

"The show ends. Lyle comes backstage, hugs me, and says, 'That was great.

Come out and do another one.' I came out and did 'If William Shatner Can, So Can I,' and I have a picture of John Hiatt biting his hand because he's laughing so hard."

On his office wall at home Daniels has a picture of himself with another musical idol, George Harrison-shortly before the ex-Beatle autographed Daniels's Gibson J-45 guitar. The two met in Los Angeles in 1985, when Daniels was working in Checking Out, an independent film made by Harrison's production company. "He's talking to me about Disneyland," Daniels recalls, "and you can see by the look on my face [in the photo] that I don't even know my own name."

After signing the guitar, Harrison flipped it over and began to play "Here Comes the Sun," "All along the Watchtower," and some Hoagy Carmichael tunes. The impromptu concert went on half an hour for an audience of three: Daniels, the movie's producer, and another actor.

"The last thing I'm going to do is check that guitar as baggage," Daniels says. "But if I'm going someplace where it doesn't leave

play 'Here Comes the Sun' on it."

o outsiders, Daniels's three careers-as actor, playwright, and musician-seem very different. He says it's only since going on tour that he has really understood how much they have in common.

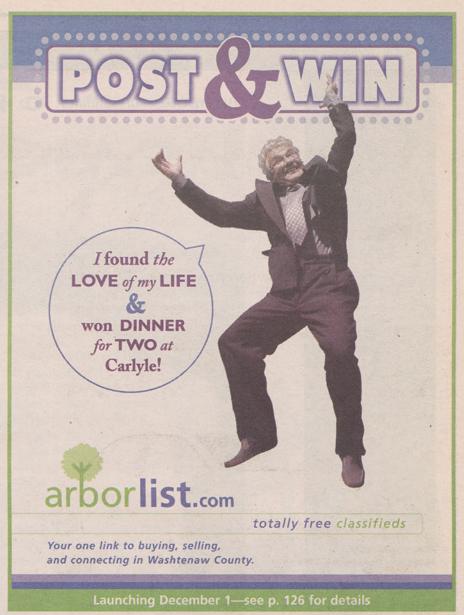
"I've learned this: it all ties in," Daniels says. "Circle Rep taught us if you do not have a connection with the audience from moment to moment, you're done. They really worked hard to make every moment truthful and honest and pure so we never

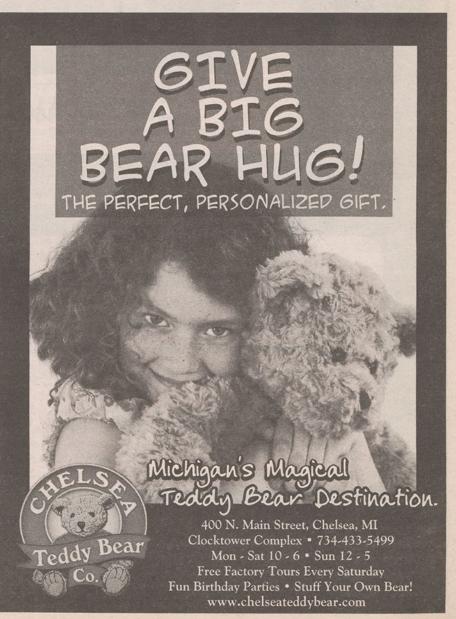
"It's the same thing with playwriting: if you're writing and writing and writing and you've got 'em and got 'em and got 'em, and here comes that scene that isn't plausible or sort of a bridge to something better, and you never fixed it-subconsciously the connection is broken, and you lose them.

'Songwriting is the same connection. You walk out there and sit down with a guitar and you have to hang on to them and build that connection, through the variation from comedy to more serious songs back to the comedy. And if a song doesn't work, you can feel them go away. So you cut the song or you move the song

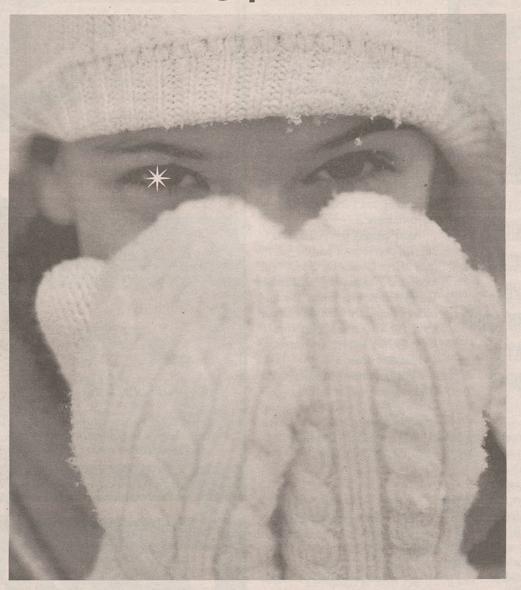
"Creatively, there's a purity" to being a singer-songwriter, says Daniels. "There's no interference. There's no filter. It doesn't go through anyone else.

"I enjoy being a playwright where someone else directs, someone else acts. But walking out there and there's no band, no marketing, no editing, there's just youit goes further than doing a play. It's the purest of all the creative expressions."





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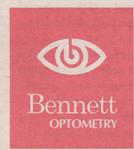
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Buying

Ann Arbor has a lot of older couples desperate for a child—and plenty of young women facing steep tuition bills.

Welcome to the baby-making business.

he photos on the wall show two smiling men posing like proud patriarchs, with broods of babies and toddlers in their arms and at their feet. Somewhere in a U-M classroom, or walking across the Diag, are young women who have helped these men make these babies. The men aren't the fathers, and the students aren't the mothers. But without them these infants wouldn't exist.

We're in the brave new world of reproduction by proxy, where science and the marketplace meet.

The men are doctors—Jonathan Ayers and F. Nicholas Shamma—and the photos are displayed in their assisted-reproduction clinic on Clark Road, IVF-Michigan. There, the docs use drugs to stimulate the ovaries of selected young women. They then harvest the donors' eggs, fertilize them in the lab, and implant them in the wombs of local women desperate to have a baby.

In-vitro fertilization with donor oocytes is a booming enterprise nationwide, and Ann Arbor is a Midwest hot spot. "Two-thirds of our patients are women whose maternal instincts have outlived their ovaries," Ayers says. "More and more women, especially in a university town like this, are delaying childbearing. And then they find they have run out of time and run out of eggs."

In most women starting at puberty, about 100 eggs mature each month—a total of some 30,000 by menopause. But the quantity and quality of the eggs decrease starting around age thirty-five. Most women over forty can't conceive with their own eggs.

But with donor eggs, older women can "go from a zero percent chance to a sixty percent chance" of having a child, says Ayers, citing the clinic's self-reported success rate. "That's a pretty big jump." And to reach those odds, they are willing to pay \$13,000 to \$27,000 for each attempt.

argaret Svoboda has wanted to be a mom since she was a little girl. But early in her first marriage, she discovered that her Fallopian tubes were blocked and she couldn't conceive on her own. After a divorce, she considered becoming a single mother using her own eggs and donor sperm.

Then she met Jon Svoboda, and eventually they married. They came to IVF-Michigan with high hopes. They'd done their research, and his sperm had tested fertile. After a test of Margaret's follicle-stimulating hormones showed that she had plenty of oocytes, the doctors hoped that by using in-vitro fertilization, the couple

by Michael Betzold and Jamie Budnick erty, would be able to con-

ceive with Margaret's own eggs." As part of the process, Jon gave Margaret injec-

tions of drugs twice daily. When ovulation occurred, the eggs were harvested via a needle put through the vaginal wall. Then they were placed in a dish with his sperm.

"They turn the lights down low in the lab and put on some Barry White music," jokes Margaret. This is how human conception increasingly takes place—clinically rather than intimately. It's estimated that 1 percent of all births today are the result of in-vitro fertilization.

Margaret produced eight eggs, all of which were successfully fertilized. The couple picked the three most promising ones, and the doctors implanted them into her uterus. The other five were frozen and stored.

But Margaret didn't get pregnant.

After five months to regroup, the Svobodas tried again, this time using the five frozen embryos. Again, none became a fetus. The doctors couldn't say why. "They considered the cycle a success, because everything worked fine, but it was not a success to us," Margaret says.

At the suggestion of a friend, Margaret asked the clinic to do a ten-day test of her follicle-stimulating hormones, rather than the three-day test that had previously shown her eggs to be viable. This longer test showed Margaret's eggs were degraded. Now the doctors gave her a less than 5 percent chance of conceiving with her own eggs.

The Svobodas were upset they weren't given the ten-day test the first time around. If it had been done earlier, they believe, they could have been spared the stress of the two in-vitro procedures—not to mention the \$30,000 they paid out of pocket. (Most insurance plans in Michigan, including the Svobodas' plan, Care Choices, don't cover in-vitro fertilization.) But Ayers says he doesn't believe the ten-day test is any more reliable than the three-day test; the clinic does the longer test only if a client asks for it.

Next, Margaret had another setback she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. After two unsuccessful attempts at in-vitro fertilization, Margaret and Jon Svoboda chose a thirty-three-year-old donor whose eggs had already enabled two other women to become pregnant.

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Nevertheless, she and Jon decided to try one more time. In late 2004, the Svobodas looked at a list of thirty or so egg donors available through IVF-Michigan. The descriptions included the women's age, height, weight, hair color, eye color, complexion, ethnicity, blood type, and education level-as well as whether they had previously given eggs, and, if so, whether those donations resulted in pregnancies. They selected several women who shared an Eastern European background, a high educational level, and some maturity. "I felt very uncomfortable picking someone nineteen or twenty," says Margaret. "I don't know if they really understand the scope of what they are doing.'

The Svobodas winnowed their list to four of IVF's donors, and were allowed to see their complete files, photos, and extensive family and medical histories. "We joke that they often know more about the donor than about their husband," Shamma says. In the end, the Svobodas selected a thirty-three-year-old who had two previous successful donations.



With donor eggs, says Jonathan Ayers (left), an older woman can "go from a zero percent chance to a sixty percent chance" of having a child. At IVF-Michigan, Ayers and partner Nicholas Shamma conducted about 150 donor egg cycles last year, resulting in about ninety live births.



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Dr. April Gago heads the U-M Center for Reproductive Medicine. This year the clinic began offering

egg donation for women who haven't been able to get pregnant otherwise.

But they had to share the donor's eggs with another couple who had picked her already. Splitting the oocyte cycle among two recipients added time and hassle. Three women, not two, had to coordinate their cycles. That required two months of drug treatments.

The donor produced fifteen eggs, and the first couple that picked her got eight of them. Of the seven left for the Svobodas, only four embryos were fertilized, and two of those were not even viable enough to freeze. The other two were implanted to no avail. "After a few days I knew they hadn't worked," says Margaret. "We were totally devastated."

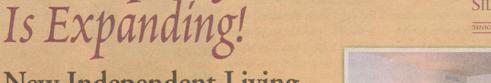
llison, a twenty-oneyear-old architecture major, is six feet tall, thin, and willowy, with long straight brown hair, a reserved manner, and a casual smile. She displays the quiet self-assurance of a rapidly maturing woman who is not naturally

Like every other student who looks in the Michigan Daily classifieds, or on Craigslist on-line, Allison had seen the ads: Egg Donors Wanted. She knew a donor could earn thousands of dollars. Then, about a year ago, one of her best friends, a college student in the Boston area, donated her eggs to a couple. Her friend's positive experience prompted Allison to take the plunge.

She applied to one of the most frequent local advertisers, Alternative Reproductive Resources (ARR).

Debra Chaney runs the local ARR branch out of her home in an Oakland County suburb. Its fourteen-year-old parent organization is based in Chicago. Such

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agencies, which have multiplied rapidly in recent years and are largely unregulated, are known as "egg brokers." Chaney started her ARR franchise after going through eight years of fertility treatments-including many cycles of drug regimes and invitro fertilization-to conceive her own two children. "I became dangerously knowledgeable," she says.

Since January 2004 Chaney has been placing ads in the Metro Times and other publications, including the Daily and Craigslist. She also tacks up flyers at universities and community colleges. Chaney fields an average of fifteen calls a day from women answering her ads. Most are college students, but some are mothers who have finished making their own babies and want to help other women start families. Their attitude, says Chaney, is "I'm not going to have any more use for these eggs, but someone else may.

Chaney first screens applicants over the phone with a one-page list of questions. She rejects those under twenty or above twenty-seven (though other egg brokers expand the age range). Also eliminated are smokers; those with a family history of mental illness, cancer, eating disorders, or some hereditary diseases; women with their own reproductive issues; and those whose height and weight are "not proportionate." Chaney says overweight donors are ruled out "to help protect them," because, she says, they are at higher risk of developing complications from the procedures. But when pressed, she also admits that they are "not as desirable as donors." (Chaney had no qualms about Allison, who appears to be underweight.)

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Only about one of the fifteen daily callers passes this initial screening, Chaney says. Those who do are sent a detailed health questionnaire that is so formidable that "we're lucky if we even get one of ten back." Most people balk about the requests for medical histories of aunts and uncles, and those who do fill them out often get surprises. "Susie didn't know her uncle John was an alcoholic," says Chaney. "Things pop up they didn't realize." Allison, however, was able to get all the answers from her mother-who also warned Allison not to tell her father about

The next steps are a two-hour meeting with Chaney and an evaluation by an independent psychologist paid by ARR. Any who make it over these last hurdles are placed on donor lists for the clinics Chaney works with-which include some Detroit area hospitals and private practices and the U-M Center for Reproductive Medicine. In the nearly three years Chaney has recruited donors, she says, she's gotten close to 10,000 inquiries, but has approved only about forty.

Chaney's rigorous standards are the main reason Dr. April Gago contracted with her when the Center for Reproductive Medicine, which Gago directs, began offering egg donation in January 2006. The women had first met when Gago was doing a fellowship and Chaney was a patient at University Women Care Clinic in

The U-M clinic, near Briarwood mall, has been doing in-vitro fertilization for years. It expanded into egg donation as a way to help patients who haven't been able to get pregnant otherwise. Gago is a warm, knowledgeable physician who is eager to share her clinic's success stories-and she's so articulate and attractive that the media representative for the U-M who set up an interview with her said afterward, "I've got to get her on TV."

Gago believes in going slowly with her patients. Treatment usually starts with drug regimens; if these don't work, the next step is often intrauterine insemination, using a catheter to inject sperm into the uterus. The most expensive intrusive treatments-IVF and egg donation-are attempted only when nothing else seems likely to succeed. Since last year, Gago says, her clinic has completed nine donor cycles, resulting in six pregnancies.

IVF-Michigan does its own advertising and screening for donors, though it occasionally takes patients who've found their own donors through personal contacts or a broker. Ayers, who teaches at the U-M Medical School, opened the practice in 1982. Since then it's grown into the state's largest in-vitro fertilization enterprise. In 2005 its six clinics conducted nearly 1,000 attempts at artificial reproduction, including about 150 egg donor cycles that resulted in about ninety live births, according to

The clinic is right across Clark Road from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, where Ayers is on staff. Ayers wears his St. Joe's ID around his neck while at IVF, but he hastens to point out that "this clinic has nothing to do with St. Joe's." As a Catholic hospital, St. Joe's will do fertility testing but nothing beyond that-the Catholic Church considers any form of assisted reproduction to be sinful.

ike almost all donors who contract to have their eggs extracted for a fee, Allison never met the woman in whose uterus her eggs were implanted, or the man whose sperm fertilized them. She feels good about helping this unknown couple, but she admits that her main motivation was money, which she used to help finance a summer of study abroad.

Legally, Allison didn't sell her eggs. Contracts specify that donors are reimbursed for their time, not the actual genetic material they provide. This helps the Food and Drug Administration classify egg donation as analogous to tissue and blood donations and cover it with the same

But whatever the terminology, the eggs are what infertile couples need-and the price can be the subject of intense negotiations and debate. If it's too low, some critics charge the donors are being exploited. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, on the other hand, believes some prices are too high-its guidelines say donors should not be paid more than \$5,000. But sometimes couples or brokers offer much higher fees to donors with specific characteristics—such as a particular ethnicity, a high IQ, or athletic or artistic prowess. In August an ad on the Ann Ar**Conlin Travel Welcomes**

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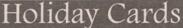


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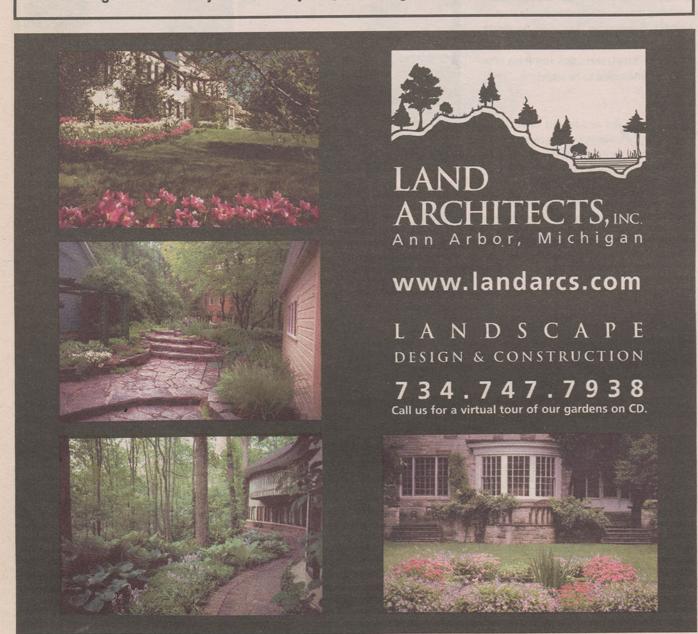
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bor Craigslist offered \$10,000 for a Jewish donor.

For Allison, the ethical equation changes when people are bidding for her attributes. She is an academic stalwart, but she is glad that ARR, which pays a flat fee of \$4,000, doesn't ask for IQ, grades, or test scores. "I think of this as a gift," she says. "I don't want to be put up for auction."

Gago downplays the quest for "designer babics," saying most couples who come to her clinic just want to have a child who resembles the mother. Ayers agrees. But most couples coming to local clinics are highly educated and want donors to be so too. Sometimes Ph.D.'s want donors to be Ph.D. candidates themselves, an expectation Gago thinks is reasonable. There's no bright line that separates choosing an egg donor from designing a baby.

To help donors to feel good about selling their eggs, brokers have names such as Baby Miracles, Loving Donation, and Angels in Waiting. And marketing aside, altruism is part of egg donation. Gago, who personally interviews each donor for ninety minutes before accepting her, says the women are likely to have donated blood in the past. Many also have relatives or friends who are infertile or have tried invitro fertilization, says Chaney. That's true for Allison, whose former horse riding instructor and her husband went through agonizing years of struggling with infertility before finally adopting a child.

One thing that stands out about egg donors, says Gago, is their high selfesteem. These are healthy, intelligent, and comely young women; if they weren't, of course, they wouldn't be picked by infertile couples to contribute their genes to the couples' babies. The pay they receive, Gago argues, is not much to compensate for the weeks of doctor visits, daily injections of heavy-duty drugs, and the painful process of egg harvesting. "You get a shot every day, and you have a needle go through the vagina into the cervix to extract the eggs," Gago points out. Chaney notes that egg donors are earning much less per hour than sperm donors, who can earn \$100 or more for a short and pleasurable visit to a clinic.

t the U-M, the total cost of egg donation and in vitro fertilization for a client is \$27,000. Of that, \$9,000 goes to Chaney's ARR, and Chaney pays \$4,000 of that to the donor. The U-M is left with \$18,000 to cover its costs for all procedures for the donor and recipient.

The Svobodas paid barely half that much for their donor procedure at IVF-Michigan—\$13,750. But there's a reason for that comparative bargain: according to Ayers, eggs extracted from the clinic's donors are routinely divided between two recipients. Ayers says IVF-Michigan pays all its donors the same fee—\$3,000. Dou-

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Egg broker Debra Chaney (right) with Sherry Lugin, a nurse at the U-M clinic. In her three years in the business, Chaney says, she's gotten inquiries from almost 10,000 potential egg donors—but approved only about forty.

ble the price the Svobodas paid and subtract the fee, and the clinic is left with \$24,500 to cover all procedures for one donor and two clients.

IVF-Michigan's ads and website don't mention that donors' eggs are split. Ayers says they do it because "it's the only way this procedure can work economically for the clinic." But ARR's Chaney, the egg broker, says, "We never split egg donation cycles," because to do so would lessen chances for pregnancy.

Ayers says IVF-Michigan won't split a donor's eggs if she produces fewer than fifteen. But Chaney says fifteen eggs is actually about the average retrieved from a donor, and usually eight or nine of them are mature enough to be good candidates for fertilization. To split those would leave each couple with too few good eggs to choose from, she says.

To produce enough eggs for two recipients, Chaney says, clinics might give too high a dose of drugs, leaving donors at risk for ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, which can led to severe complications-fluid buildup in the ovaries, pelvis, and even lungs, and in some cases blood clots. And some critics feel that the risks of donating to even a single recipient haven't been adequately studied, according to Julie Burger, an attorney with the Institute for Science, Law, and Technology in Chicago. Burger says not enough is known about the long-term health risks of stimulating the ovaries with drugs-including potential scarring of the donors' Fallopian tubes.

By medical standards, egg donation is relatively unregulated—for instance, no data are available on the rate of complications such as ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome. But Drs. Ayers and Shamma call the procedures undergone by both the egg donor and the recipient "minimally invasive," and Ayers says they will do up to three or four egg donor cycles from the same donor. Shamma, rapping his fingers on a table for luck, says "we've never had a complication" with a donor.

Whether a donor's egg cycle produces a baby is a major factor in determining a donor's value on the open market—where brokers advertise rates above the standard local clinic fees. But while the recipients

know everything about the donor, the IVF-Michigan doctors say their donors are told nothing about the recipients—not even whether the eggs resulted in a successful pregnancy. At the U-M, the only thing donors are told is how many eggs were produced and whether a pregnancy occurred.

Chaney says she will tell donors what happens if they ask—but none of them do. To inquire would risk deepening and prolonging a connection that most egg donors want to walk away from.

"It's easier not to know," agrees Allison. "I gave them my DNA, that's all. I don't feel connected to the child. It would be comforting to know they did get pregnant, but if they didn't it would be disappointing."

Allison concedes that someday she might see a child on the street that looks like her and wonder, but she doubts she will ever want to know for sure. She says, though, that all donors must understand the potential: "It's really important to feel comfortable with knowing there could be a child with your genes out there."

Since Allison told her friends about her experience, three of them are thinking about donating. She herself will likely do another egg donation just before the holidays, but only if it fits into her class schedule.

Not all egg donors are paid. At IVF-Michigan, about 10 percent are "designated donors"—women the recipients have recruited on their own. The U-M doesn't do such "open donations," because its attorneys say there is too much risk of underthe-table money and other complications.

Sometimes, though, the donation truly is a gift.

After all their frustration, time, and money, the Svobodas haven't abandoned their hope of having a child. This year, through a contact in a medical field, they learned of two women who were willing to be real angels. Both had finished having their own children. One donated her eggs, and the other volunteered to be the gestational carrier.

Margaret says their generosity restored her faith in people. The thirty-year-old egg donor produced eggs that were successfully fertilized using Jon's sperm, and one embryo was implanted in the uterus of the







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forty-three-year-old gestational carrier. However, no pregnancy occurred.

The Svobodas hope to make another attempt using two frozen embryos-but now they face a new complication: the volunteer carrier has yet to get over her anguish at the failed attempt. "She didn't expect it not to work," Margaret says.

pwadays it often takes a village not only to raise a child but even to produce one. The mystery of conception has been separated into discrete components. Different people can provide the male and female genetic material, a surrogate can have the pregnancy, and conception can take place through a multitude of means.

Monica Linkner, a local attorney who specializes in adoption and assistedreproduction cases, sees the greater freedom for women offered by egg donor programs as a step forward. "We're separating out the different functions of baby making," she says. "I think it's wonderful." But Linkner expresses qualms about "designer babies" and about how a relatively new procedure-"preimplantation genetics," a genetic assessment of a newly fertilized embryo-might be used for genetic engineering, including sex selection.

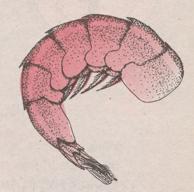
Fertilized embryos can even transcend time-when they are frozen for future use. The directors of IVF-Michigan say 80 percent of the clients who've tried to get pregnant with donor eggs come back, either because the first attempt didn't work or because they want another child. Like the Svobodas, most use their own frozen embryos. The U-M also wants to offer frozen embryo donation cycles in the near future—otherwise these good eggs will be 'wasted," Gago says. (In fact, the abundance of frozen embryos provides the material for the fierce debate over stem-cell

The U-M has cryopreservation programs in place for both embryos and sperm, and is experimenting with freezing oocytes. There's already an unregulated commercial trade in frozen eggs in some parts of the country, though the government has not yet approved the practice. In the near future, Gago says, women of college age could have their eggs extracted and frozen and then retrieve them later when they want to have them fertilized. In effect, women will be donating eggs to their older selves, making that daunting choice of career versus maternity less of a burden. Such developments are, depending on your point of view, either the ultimate in reproductive freedom or yet another huge step in making human bodies into separable marketable commodities.

Any stigma attached to a "test-tube baby" has long ago become moot. Shamma says a psychologist has studied IVF-Michigan's clients, and half of them say they never intend to tell their children that they were conceived with a donor egg. Critics worry that someday soon halfbrothers and half-sisters conceived through egg donation will unknowingly mate. Linkner hopes a registry will be established so that children born from egg donation can get information about their biological parents, similar to that now in place in most states for adopted children.

But prospective parents aren't about to put their biological clocks on hold until these medical and ethical issues are sorted out. The egg market is already open

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An egg donor's dilemma

I found myself breathlessly counting rings until my father picked up the phone. "Dad! Hi, it's me. Is Mom home? I

need to talk to her about something.' I never hid from my father the fact

that I was considering becoming an egg donor. But now that it was time to make the decision, I needed my mother.

"She's not home. What is it?" He sounded curious and concerned.

I explained that a couple had chosen my profile from an egg broker's on-line database. They were ready to move-if I

When I first heard about women who donated their eggs for money, I pictured beautiful academics with all the right connections and no moral reservations. I never thought I might become a contender in the game of surrogate fertilization. Then came college and the inevitable bills, debts, loans, and anxiety over next semester's tuition. The classified ads in the Michigan Daily began to look attractive: "Be an egg donor-earn \$5,000!"

I decided to send applications to two agencies: Baby Miracles in California and Alternative Reproductive Resources (ARR) in Chicago. I read up on the history, medical implications, and politics of IVF and egg donation. I compiled a list of questions I'd ask and made a few rules for myself: I had to be guaranteed complete anonymity (though, oddly, I found myself to be curious about the people who might choose my eggs); I had to have all medical visits and travel expenses covered (every agency claims to pay all of this); and I wanted a guarantee that I'd receive the promised check even if there were unforeseen complications after I began the fertility drugs (I was told that if I made it that far into the process there shouldn't be complications-but there were no guarantees). Most of all, I wanted to talk to a woman my age who'd gone through donation before me. How much did you

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get paid? Did the retrieval hurt? What do you think about there being a baby out there with half your genetic material?

Debra Chaney, the director of ARR's local branch, never hesitated in answering any of my questions. She told me as much about potential parents as she lawfully was allowed, and she put me in touch with one of her donors, Allison, a U-M student my age (see main story).

Allison was happy to talk to me on the phone. She was very satisfied with her experience (she was even thinking about donating again), but she warned me it hurt-and not just the sharp intensity of the retrieval by needle, but also the excruciating cramps that kept her on the couch for days. She was reassured, though, by Chaney's calls asking whether she was

Sorting through my moral reservations was harder. I read that couples spent tens of thousands of dollars going through treatments and testing and IVF procedures. Why, I wondered, couldn't they just adopt a child? And I was troubled by ads on the Internet offering donors with particularly rare attributes (a Mensamember Jewish pianist with long legs and perfect skin who excelled in soccer, for instance) much more money than they'd ever offer me (smart but no genius, aspiring clarinetist but no virtuoso, proportionate height and weight but no model).

Yet I couldn't deny needing that monev. Despite my doubts, I decided that if this were a game I could win, then I'd

By the end of the summer, I had profiles registered with both egg brokers. I pent quite a bit of time on e-mail and on the phone ensuring I fully understood each agency's policies. Both agencies were quite willing to talk to me for as long as it took to make me feel comfortable. Having satisfied all sorts of nagging questions about the procedure, I took their advice



and waited. And waited: my phone wasn't exactly ringing off the hook with couples wanting my eggs for their babies.

I was comfortable with the temporary indecision and lull: I had started school, had a part-time job, and had recently been thinking maybe egg donation wasn't right for me anyway. Then I got the call.

My father wasn't overjoyed, but I reminded him that we'd been talking about taking out new loans to cover next semester's tuition. "It's a lot of money, Dad. And I think I'm okay with it.'

We both heard that telling phrase: "I think." It awakened a truth that we continued to discuss: this was a new frontier of ethics, medicine, and life. Whatever decided, there couldn't be just an "I think" involved. I had to be sure.

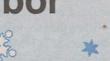
And so I decided-after six months, two extensive applications, and countless hours spent on phone and e-mail correspondence-not to go forward. Egg donation is probably a healthy, viable option for many young women-just not for me. At least not now.



SNOW REMOVAL









Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at highrisk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

- * On days having oddnumbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having evennumbered street addresses in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with oddnumbered addresses in legal spaces.
- * On days having even-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the street having odd-numbered street addresses—in order to allow plows to clear the oddnumbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with evennumbered addresses in legal spaces.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

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The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

pstairs in PJ's, the one-room used-record store on Packard around the corner from State, sits either Marc or Jeff Taras. Which brother you get depends on the day of the week you're there. On Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays, it'll be Jeff, the long-haired younger brother with the bushy beard. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, it'll be Marc, the balding older brother with the neatly trimmed beard. Sundays, they alternate sitting there. Every shift except Sunday's lasts twelve hours, and to keep expenses down, they work every shift alone.

Of course, Marc and Jeff aren't just sitting in PJ's, any more than the Buddha was just sitting under the Bodhi Tree. They're waiting to sell their next record. Sometimes it'll be an Oasis CD or a Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs LP. Most often, it'll be by the Beatles or John Coltrane. Less often it'll be by the Doors or Nirvana. And every two or three years, it'll be Carla Bley's "Escalator over the Hill." But whatever it is, the brother on duty will note down its particulars by hand so that later they can check back stock for another copy. The process takes time and patience, both things the brothers have plenty of.

And, of course, Marc and Jeff are never really alone. They're surrounded by thousands upon thousands of recordings. CDs tightly pack the shelves lining two walls, with DVDs and VHS tapes stacked on top of them. Wrapped in individual plastic sleeves, rock and jazz LPs overflow their fifteen-pocket wooden browsers. Filed spine out alphabetically by composer, classical LPs cram one corner. Arranged in neat rows across the floor, bargain-price LPs lean against bins and displays. Stuffed in egg crates lining the far wall, back-stock LPs serve as display racks for box sets. And, naturally, the sound of music—rock, jazz, soul, rhythm, blues, country, western, classical, and anything else that's ever been recorded in any format—always fills the air.

This past September, Marc and Jeff celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of PJ's. Marc, an extremely intense and exceedingly loquacious man, moved to town from Birmingham in 1980 to enroll in the U-M's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. He never finished, but like so many before and after him, he never left. He'd known and loved music as long as he could remember, listening to cowboy songs in the 1950s, to the Beatles and the Kinks in the 1960s, and to farther-out bands and genres in the 1970s. He'd started working at Discount Records in Birmingham in the mid-1970s, and when he moved here, he switched to the Discount at State and Liberty. But working for a faceless corporation in a chain store wasn't what Marc wanted out of life. He wanted a store of his own.

He got his chance one Sunday morning in July 1981. Marc and PJ Ryder, an ambitious friend he knew through his brother, had just finished breakfast at a diner at Packard and State. "I remember there was a little antique shop where the coffee shop is now, and they had moved out," Marc recalls. "I took PJ across the street and I said to him, 'Look at this little place. It'd be a perfect place to open a little used-record store.' And he said to me, 'Let's do it—give me a list of everything we need from records down to cash drawers and the like, and let's do it!' "Ryder was as good as his word. "He rounded up a couple of his friends as silent partners, and I brought my brother in, and we were open in two months."

Jeff, a much more relaxed but no less loquacious man, had moved to town six years before his brother, also to attend the U-M: "I had been working on a double major in math and physics, but I came up a few credits shy of a physics degree." He graduated with a B.S. in math in 1979 but, as he puts it, "never achieved escape velocity." After a trip to Europe paid for with money he'd earned working at Pizza Bob's, "I came back and worked at the U Hospital as a disorderly orderly and then at Speedy Printing as a printer, which is how I knew PJ. He was an outside salesman there."

According to PJ, the five partners first considered oth-



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PJ's Endures

continued

er names for the store but quickly settled on his. "A lot of people knew me around town. I'd lived there nine years, worked a lot of places, and knew a lot of people, so we thought we'd have some name recognition. Besides, it's a personable name, the kind of name that people feel comfortable with"

Tucked into its street-level storefront, PJ's Used Records was successful from the start. When the silent partners decided to cash in their shares after a couple of years, they were paid off with a profit. "I remember my accountant saying it was the best return on an investment he'd ever gotten," Marc says, "because he'd more than doubled his money."

PJ and Marc originally split working days, with Jeff taking a couple of weeknights plus Sundays. "I didn't have any record store experience," Jeff says, "and I was sorely unprepared for our customers' astonishing diversity of musical interests." He quickly learned, and when PJ got a job at Prism Productions as a booking agent, Jeff went full time.

When the bigger space on the third floor opened up in 1990, PJ's moved upstairs. Ryder stayed on part time until he got married and moved to Detroit in 1996: "I loved working there—loved turning people on to music and always discovering new stuff myself—but it was definitely time to move on."

The three partners agreed on a figure to buy Ryder out, and the brothers borrowed the money from their parents. "We actually succeeded in paying off a five-year loan in three years," Marc says, "and netted them a handsome return as well." The late 1990s were the high-water mark of record retail in town, and the brothers thought they were set at last. "We expected that we would be able to take the equivalent of PJ's income and split it three ways," Marc says. "We'd get a third, inventory would get a third, and store revenue profile [a one-shot infusion of cash] would get a third. But it never panned out that waybecause as soon as we paid off the loan, Napster hit."

t was the iPod generation," Jeff says, "and with Napster, they had access to digital music without paying for it. I knew teenage kids who were claiming collections of five, ten thousand pieces who'd never paid for any of it—they just downloaded it."

"Napster, for better and for worse, has created a sea change in young people's attitude about what matters about music," Marc says. "For most young people, what matters about music is not ownership but access. Personally, I view file sharing as copyright infringement—or, as some would call it, theft."

Business at PJ's fell 35 percent in three years—and the Tarases' income fell along with it. "I always thought that record stores would be record stores," Marc says with

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Marc clowning around during construction in 1981. Though file sharing has killed off much larger stores than theirs, the brothers believe themselves blessedfor twenty-five years, they've been able to do exactly what they want to do.

some slight bitterness, "and that young people would always care about musicthat music would always be a commodity where our society placed some value. As it turns out, I was wrong, and since 2000 it's been pretty much hard times." Hard indeed: although loath to admit it, the brothers each make something less than \$20,000 a year working at the store.

And yet PJ's endures. "CDs pay the bills," says Marc, "though there's probably a better return on the records than on the CDs. LPs are a niche market now." Where do they get new used product? "The vast bulk of it comes to us," Jeff says, "on average, three-four hundred LPs and a couple of hundred CDs every day. I pay forty percent of what I think I can sell it for for the stuff I can sell fairly quickly. If I think I can sell it in a year, a third. In two years, a quarter. In God knows when, more like ten percent."

Customers at PJ's are "everybody from junior high to senior citizens," says Jeff. "Marc and I speculate that there's only about two hundred and fifty hard-core music buyers in southeastern Michigan and that they purposefully spread their music money around all the stores just to keep us all in business, because they need us as much as we need them." Asked whether they have lots of repeat customers, Marc replies, "Yes-but I wish we had more regular once-or-twice-a-monthers. Then there'd be less constant anxiety."

Inevitably, there is the constant anxiety. Although the store still makes enough money to pay the brothers' health care benefits-something for which they are deeply grateful—it has no retirement plan. "I suspect that rather than being considered a business," Marc says, "we might be better organized as a nonprofit or as a community service. I often worry that I don't do enough for other people-after all, that's what we're here for, to learn to love other people, and the proof of learning how to love is service to other people-but I console myself with the idea that, really, PJ's is a community service."

There's no doubt it's a service that many people in the music community appreciate. Of the dozens of folks I spoke with about PJ's, most were more than enthusiastic-they were euphoric. Linda Yohn, the music manager at WEMU radio and Marc's boss for his two weekly shows on the station, was typical in her praise. "I hope Ann Arborites and people who visit the town will take the time to experience this store and the music," Yohn says. "The intelligence and the enthusiasm and the love that Marc and Jeff put into that store is just incredible. They are genuinely good, caring, concerned people, and it shows in everything they do."

It does. During the couple of hours I was there, the store almost always had a handful of folks in it, and the brothers knew just about all of them by name. Most of the time, Marc or Jeff knew what customers had bought their last time in, and every single time, the brother on duty could tell them something fascinating about what they were about to hear.

"The most exciting sale is to someone who's finding a record they've really been looking for," Marc says. "The next most exciting sale is when you're able to sell things to people that you really care about yourself, when you have a sense of what they're going to appreciate when they get home with that Velvet Underground record and have a particularly special freak-out."

Although they had hoped to be a lot less anxious and to be making a lot more money, the brothers are nevertheless doing exactly what they hoped to be doing when they opened PJ's twenty-five years agoand both believe themselves blessed for having the opportunity to do so. Whether they'll still be there in another twenty-five years is anybody's guess, but it's what they're both holding out for. "As long as I'm physically capable of doing it," Marc says, "this is what I want to do."

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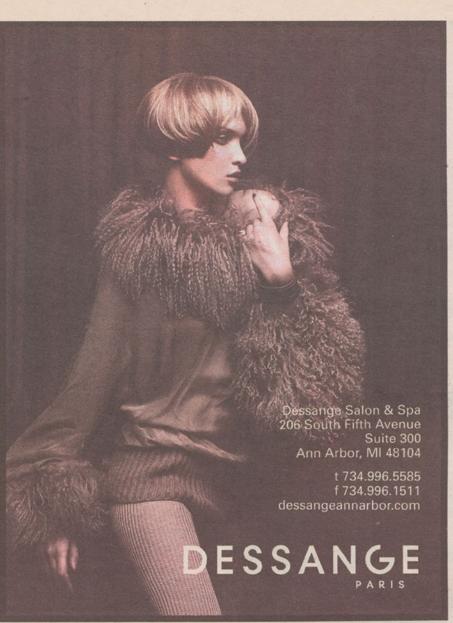
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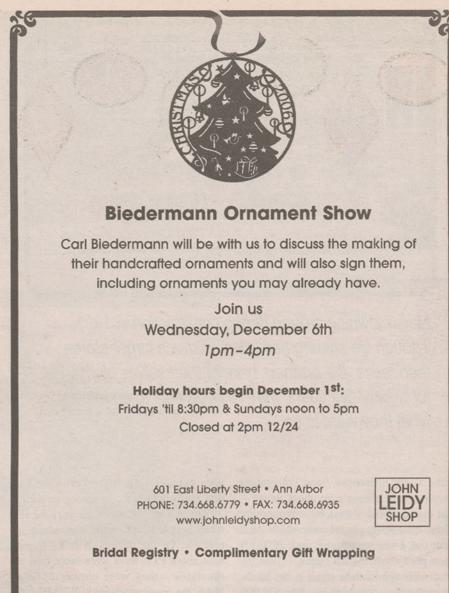
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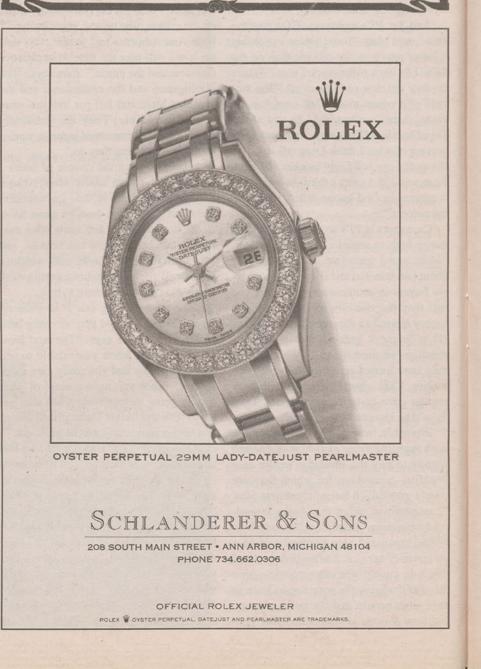
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by Laura and Jony McReynolds

ncredible as it sounds, some people are done with their holiday shopping. Even more amazing, some people were done before Halloween-no, it's true; we actually know some of them. One friend of ours starts shopping for the holidays on December 26, gleefully picking up bargains at postholiday sales. Another shops all year long, buying a gift here or there whenever she sees something that someone on her list might like. Both of them finish before the leaves fall, and they can spend December contentedly lolling about, doubtless eating the cookies they had time to bake from ingredients they found on sale and quaffing holiday cheer in front of a roaring fire.

We hate them.

We are not done with our shopping. In fact, we've barely started. But we do have a bit of an edge: we've been out there, and we've taken copious notes. Read on, and take heart. You might not finished your shopping before the end of November, but with a little help, you can handily wrap things up-pun unrepentantly intendedin time to enjoy a hot toddy and a plate of gingerbread men in good conscience.

ll you need is love, and \$45, to buy someone an eighteen-inch talking John Lennon action figure from Vault of Midnight on Main. Modeled after one of Bob Gruen's iconic photos of Lennon taken during his 1970s New York period, it's eerily detailed, from the wire-framed sunglasses, windblown hair, and hawklike nose to the faint creases in the blue jeans (did John Lennon really have someone iron his denims???). It plays music and spouts Lennon quotes in authentic Liverpudlian, including "Power to the people" and "Give peace a chance."

Fans of Frank Miller's black, edgy reinterpretations of the Batman mythos will slaver over Absolute Dark Knight (\$100), a hardcover two-volume set whose tales include a gripping Batman-versus-Superman battle (Superman has, in Miller's vision, become a narrow-minded government tool). For fans with shallower pockets, Vault of Midnight also carries the softcover editions of these two edgy comics, minus miscellaneous bonus material, at \$15 each.

Gifts through the ages (clockwise from right): 1950s-style clock at Acme Mercantile; John Lennon "the New York years" action figure at Vault of Midnight; combined incense holder and prayer wheel at Jewel Heart.

Main Street Gifts, but the range of vintage concert art is wide indeed, ranging from Patsy Cline Live at Memorial Hall (Kansas City, March 3, 1963, two days before her death) to the B-52's Live at Max's Kansas City (New York City, December 12, 1977). From the Rolling Stones to Tommy

Dorsey and Janis Joplin to Benny Good-

man, there's a poster for just about any-

body. They're \$4-\$8 each, on stiff-backed

cardboard

Main Street Gifts also offers a designyour-own-shirt option: choose a solidcolored tee (\$16-\$18), pick a celebrity image to transfer, like Charlie's Angels or Jimi Hendrix (\$8-\$10), and create an easy custom gift. It takes twenty minutes, but if that's too long to wait, there are plenty of cool ready-made tees in stock, including Miles Davis, the Grateful Dead, and Elmo-a red shirt with Elmo's distinctive eyes, puppet mouth, and big clown nose, \$16.

Speaking of time, the Buddhists have been masters of spiritual efficiency since 400 A.D., when the Tibetans introduced prayer wheels whose revolving scrolls contained thousands of written mantras. Devotees believe that viewing the mantras has the same beneficial effect as saying them out loud, and that a spin of the wheel constitutes viewing, albeit at a speed-reader's pace. Save someone from the tedious effort of recitation and spread spiritual blessings There are no Beatles concert posters at with a combination incense holder and

\$2 bumper stickers read "My other vehicle is the Mahayana." This is a bit of Buddhist humor. Mahayana is the practice of liberating oneself from suffering and striving for enlightenment. Its translation: "great vehicle."

Needlecrafters know that handwork is an excellent form of meditation. Busy Hands, on Main Street, has a gorgeous selection of soft, silky yarns as well as kits to get beginners started, including the irreverent Happy Hooker crochet kit with stitchby-stitch instructions (\$16), a kid's needlepoint kit (\$6), a Mango Moon poncho kit for adults (\$95; it includes all the yarn), and a dog poncho kit aimed at kids (\$19).

Know people who are ambivalent about their dependence on cellular technology? Help them turn their state-of-theart cell phones into 1950s throwbacks with the Please Hold old-fashioned handset with matching coiled cord (\$20) from Acme Mercantile on Liberty. Available in Kit Kat Black, Ferrari Red, and Shocking Pink, it includes three adapters to fit almost any cell phone.

Retro reigns supreme at this downtown boutique, where you can also find wall clocks whose faces sport faux vintage advertising for Rex Brand Pickles ("Ask for King of Pick-

les"), Vespa scooters, and something called Atomic Muscle Malt. We're not sure what that last one is, but the couple depicted on the clock's face are riding a rocket and look to be having a fine time. The clocks are \$38-\$49. A more generic diner-style clock, \$20, advertises "Good coffee, 5 cents a cup" (these days, the java chip Frappuccino around the corner runs \$4.75).

sssst. Wanna buy a Hot diamond? Hot Diamonds is a line of sterling silver and diamond jewelry made in Great Britain, popular because you can get something pretty nice without breaking the bank (or a jeweler's front window). Seyfried Jewelers on Main carries sterling silver rings, earrings, pins, and bracelets accented with diamonds for just \$50-\$200. A steal-but not stolen.

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but roses are quite companionable, too, especially when encrusted with twenty-four-



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Choirs, carolers, pipers, and more on the sidewalk from 7 to 9pm.

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Santa's Mailbox will be ready to take your child's letters to Santa on Friday, November 24! Located at 347 S. Main next to Generations for Children. Final North Pole delivery on December 15. Postage to the North Pole compliments of the Main Street Area Association!

Donate a new toy to SAFEHOUSE—drop box located in the atrium of 306 S. Main, outside Busy Hands.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

karat gold. Real roses, dipped in gold, they're at Seyfried for \$49.95 a stem.

If beef jerky is from Mars, potpourri is from Venus. They have one thing in common, though: you can make both in the Snackmaster Encore Dehydrator-though presumably

not at the same time. The Encore also makes fruit roll-ups, banana chips, sun-dried tomatoes, and dried herb bundles. It's \$70 at Downtown Home & Garden.

Margaret Parker, wife of Downtown Home owner Mark Hodesh, graces the store's monthly newsletters with her simple yet evocative artwork. Now you can get limitededition prints of her images—depicting the drive-through on Real roses dipped in gold, at Seyfried an overcast day, a Jewelers. pot of tulips, lamplight, or other cozy

imagery-for \$75 unframed or \$145 framed. They're a lovely touch of Ann Arbor for any wall.

We watched shoppers of all ages melt over Lullaboos (\$48), cuddly hand-knit dolls designed by Ann Arbor artist Margaret Wyngaard and made in a downtown studio by artistic area mommies. Each Lullaboo baby is about nine inches long, with a sweetly rounded wee head and stitched eyes, and is swaddled in a wool-cashmere sweater. They're at the Ann Arbor Art Center and on-line at lullaboos.com.

Great gifts for artists can be found at Art Spoken at Ashley and Miller, like a fabric screen printing kit for \$53, or a doit-yourself point driver for picture framers (\$110). It looks sort of like a staple gun that shoots out the bottom, but it drives points-triangular pieces of flat metalinstead of staples. \$16.75 buys a box of 3,000 points.

You don't have to be an artist to appreciate Art Spoken's lovely glass pens, available clear or in solid colors, stripes, or swirls (\$12-\$20). You simply dip the glass tip into a bottle of ink, and the ink slowly drains off the pen's spiral grooves as you write. Any of them would lend even the most banal missive a touch of class.

Perhaps you know one of the couple dozen people who don't yet have a pair of Crocs? Footprints is an excellent place to pick up a pair of the lightweight, lovably ugly clogs made from proprietary closed-cell resin (PCCR), which warms and softens with heat, making these shoes especially popular with hospital staff, chefs, gardeners, children, and many others who spend a long time on their feet and need something that washes off easily. They start at \$25 for kids' sizes and come in a rainbow of bright, cheerful colors, including maize on blue. Like Birkenstocks, they're very comfy with a warm pair of socks.

If you buy a pair of Crocs, you might also want to pick up a handful of Jibbitz (\$2.49 each). Jibbitz are basically like little pierced earrings for the air holes in the toes of Croc clogs, a genius product invented

by a family in Boulder, Col-

orado (and one that recently made them very rich indeed when Crocs bought their home-based company). Jibbitz come in hearts, basketballs, maple leaves, breast cancer ribbons, flamingos, pig faces-you name it. Happy House Gifts, at Westgate, has a great selection.

Also at Happy House are Legacy Journals: blank journals with question prompts meant to elicit the owner's life story for the benefit of future generations. They cost \$12.95 and come

in customized versions for grandparents and parents.

or those old enough to remember service stations selling Sinclair, Mohawk, and White Rose (or young enough to find the names of those long-defunct brands amusingly quaint), vintage gasoline globes are \$100 each at Yesterday's Collection on Jackson Road. A truly luxe gift: an \$1,895 antique Texaco gas pump (gas, far too expensive, not included).

Paint-your-own-bisqueware shop Rainbow Creations, on Zeeb, offers an imaginative gift basket containing a ceramic piece of your choice, paints, and brushes. After creating a masterpiece, the recipient can bring it back to the store for firing in the kiln.

It's almost impossible to make really great pizza at home without a pizza stone—a flat, unglazed stone that heats evenly and absorbs excess moisture for a crisper crust. Everyday Cook, at Kerrytown, sells a grand one made of soapstone set into a copper liner with handles. \$65 for a small, \$95 for a large, they're also good for baking cookies and bread. Other good gifts here are the pot à beurre (butter pot), \$26.99, which keeps butter fresh and spreadable without refrigeration, and a lovely lightweight bamboo bowl just right for tossed salads. It's \$45.

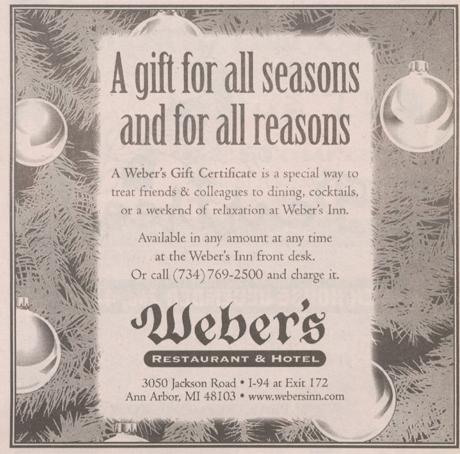
Parents with young babies will appreciate Bobux, sweetly stylish soft-soled leather shoes from New Zealand that not only look great but actually stay on pudgy little kicking feet. There's a fine selection at Kerrytown's Keedo. Also at Keedo, Olludesign's locally made cotton baby slings (\$49) come in fun, funky patterns including polka dot, bright geometrics, florals, and paisley.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 "Hark, Helen, and Harold Sing" Drama

Youth Mission Benefit, downtown 6:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 Advent IV Downtown service at 11 am

Downtown Christmas Eve Services 5 pm Children's Service pm Family Service 9 pm Communion Service 11 pm Candlelight Service

Green Wood Christmas Eve Service 5 pm Candlelight Family Service

First United Methodist Church

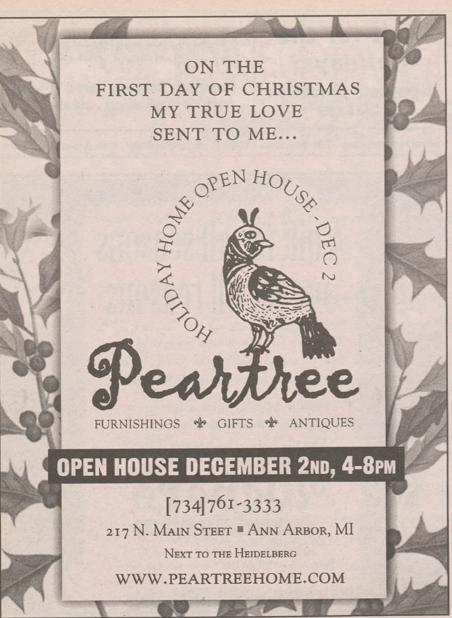
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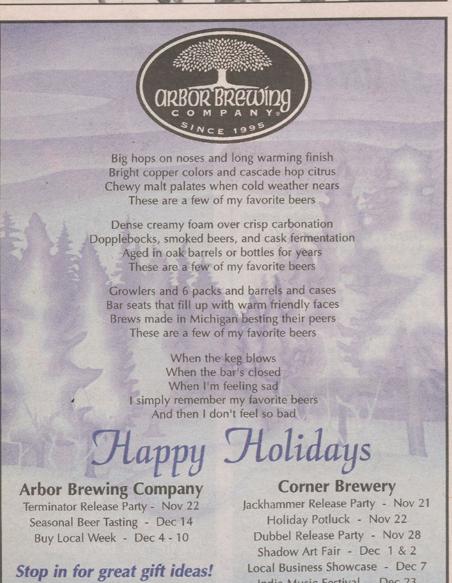
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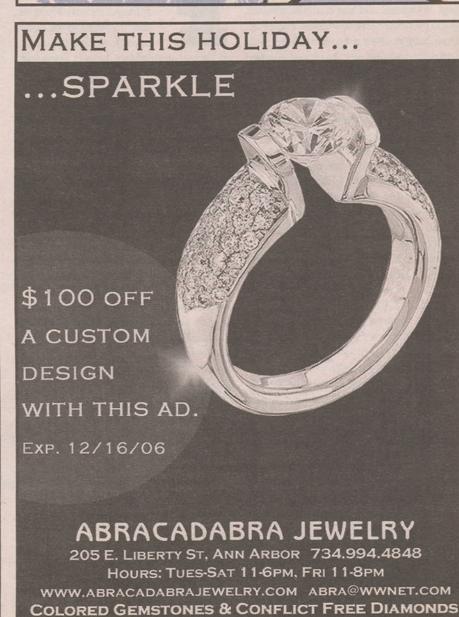
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Indie Music Festival - Dec 23

Hair of the Dog Bowl Party - Jan 1



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HOLIDAY GUIDE 2006



Vicki Honeyman has turned the back room at Heavenly Metal, the gallery that shares space with her Ann Street hair salon, into what she rightly calls "total cuteness"-not cloying, cutesy cute, but wonderfully hip, gotta-have-it cute: neon-bright plastic totes by Koziol (\$17-\$20), bunny bookends (\$42), Indian leather pencil cases (\$16-\$48), bracelet charms, and a fun selection of cowgirl stuff, including Saddle Sore body lotion (\$15) and a delightful board game, Cowgirls Ride the Trail of Truth (\$45). Pour yourself a cosmo and answer questions like "What led to your first kiss?", "What is the one thing you would buy yourself if money were no object?", and "If you woke up in the morning and found yourself as a man, what are the first three things you would do?" (One good answer: Buy my wife or girlfriend something from Heavenly Metal.)

ness

Pups with an oral fixation need a designer chew toy from the wonderfully whimsical DogmaCatmantoo on Fourth Avenue. Choose from a Jimmy Chew shoe, a Dog Perignon bottle, or a Chewy Vuitton bag, all with squeakers inside. There's plenty here for the pet owner, too, including T-shirts with an eloquent message: "Wag more, bark less."

Give someone an inside look at how the leader of the free world handles crushing presidential pressure with the irreverent Bush Yoga, a tongue-in-cheek yoga manual illustrated with what appears to be a George W. Bush action figure in a flight suit. It's \$14.95 at Common Language Books in Braun Court. Equally illuminating: The Sinner's Guide to the Evangelical Right (\$12.95), an examination of Bibles designed to look like glossy fashion magazines and megachurches with ATMs, rockclimbing walls, and, in one case, a drivethrough McDonald's.

through a bad time or just having a bad hair day, a hand-carved Indonesian didouri could be just the ticket. Selling for \$32 at Orchid Lane on Liberty, these winged, fairylike creatures come with combs for "combing out evil energy" (or perhaps simply wicked snarls) and mirrors to "reflect evil energy." Also from Indonesia are handcarved winged dragons, horses, pigs, and angels, in a riot of color. They start at \$12.

f a razor from Truefitt & Hill is good enough for Prince Charles, it will probably meet the standards of someone on your list. The British barbershop, established in 1805, caters to the royal family, members of Parliament, dignitaries, and celebrities with its high-end services and top-quality men's care products, including sterling silver and badger-hair shaving brushes (\$100), elegant black-handled razors (\$100), shaving cream (\$13), and mixing cups (\$25). Best of all, you don't have to go to London to buy them. They're all at Maison Edwards, in the Nickels Arcade. Hint: the men in your life who are too young to shave might appreciate a red or black licorice pipe. They're 75¢.

Operatives on Her Majesty's secret service would be amused by Spy Chix spy tracking gear, \$10 at Ritz Camera. The set includes a thirty-five-millimeter, pocketsize camera, minibinoculars, and a watch with time and date functions. They all work, and they're all pink. Not feminine enough? How about a heart-shaped, pink and silver digital camera with webcam and videocam functions and picture-editing software? From Girl Gear, it's \$30.

Our six-year-old thinks allusions to bodily functions are the height of wit. He would fall apart over Middle Earth's ickily Whether you know someone going realistic ear-shaped paper clips (\$1) and



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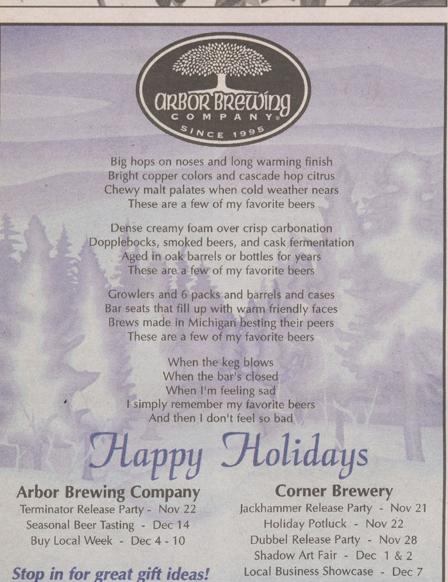
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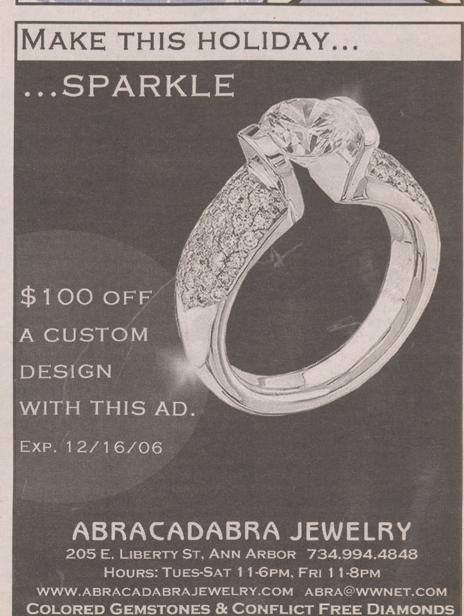
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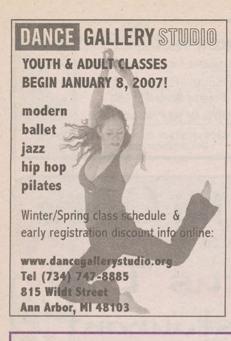
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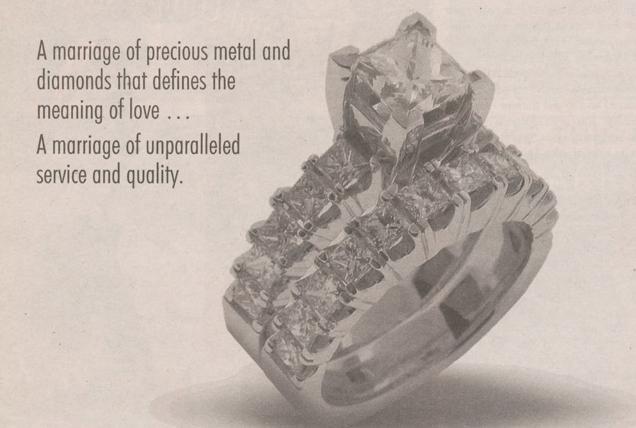
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HOLIDAY **GUIDE 2006**

nose-shaped pencil sharpeners (two guesses where the pencil goes), both flesh colored. True hysteria would ensue over an elephant-shaped cigarette dispenser: lift his trunk, and a cigarette-candy or otherwise—comes out of his butt (\$10).

For the young martial artist or John Woo fan, consider a clock in the shape of a shuriken or "throwing star," with a yinyang symbol on the face and, instead of a pendulum, a kicking ninja. "With swinging ninjitsu action!" boasts the package. It's \$20, also at Middle Earth.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art has been temporarily relocated to a second-floor spot on South University while its permanent home on State is under construction. Even in this small space, its gift shop stocks lots of great presents, including Spoonies animal magnets and figures made from recycled spoons (\$5-\$11), Pewabic tiles (\$15-\$20), and coasters made from the centers of old LPs. Packaged in random sets of six for \$22, they include Lawrence Welk's recording of "Blame It on the Bossa Nova," Neil Diamond's "Cracklin' Rosie," and even the Carpenters' cover of the Beatles' "Ticket to Ride."

Few things fit better in the toe of a stocking than a small bag of candy or nuts. By the Pound has a tempting assortment of bulk sweets, including chocolate-covered cashews (\$6.99 a pound), chocolatecovered coffee beans (\$5.99), Skittles (\$2.99), and our son's favorite, Swedish fish (\$3.49), which have the added advantage of being gummy enough to mold to the stocking's shape. The store also has decorative gift bags and tins starting at 30¢.

Brazilian women love to show a lot of skin (witness the fearsome "Brazilian wax," a bikini wax intended for thong wearers that removes every single pubic hair). Brazamerica stocks the Hope lingerie line, Brazil's top lingerie brand, which skimpy doesn't even come close to describing. It's \$6.50 per piece in denim, cotton stripes, or hot pink. The panties in that last color are labeled, certainly unnec-

You may have never encountered a hookah outside the pages of Alice in Wonderland, but the water pipes are ubiquitous in the Middle East, where they're shared for social smoking in bars and restaurants as well as in private homes. Smoky's Fine Cigars has a couple of fine examples, including a ten-inch hookah with glass bowl and accompanying silver case (\$40), and a smaller, "travel sized" hookah (\$30).

Smokers who prefer the taste of the Dominican Republic will like Davidoff "special tea" hand-rolled cigars (\$12.25 each), also available in sets of four for \$60 and in a nine-cigar assortment in a nice wood box for \$139.95. A portable humidor will keep those smokes fresh. At \$29.95, it keeps four cigars in humidity-controlled comfort. And if you're going to buy something for a smoker, do the rest of the peo-

ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 2006

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ple in his or her life a favor and buy them a can of Get Out smoke eliminator (\$7) or a smoke eliminator candle (\$9).

he most popular holiday gift at Aqua-Tec Engineers on Packard? A bearded dragon, a mellow, eight-inch, vegetarian lizard that loves to interact with people. At \$90, they're not cheap, but they live for eight to twelve years. Even longer lived: a leopard gecko, considered a great beginner's lizard because it's small (three to four inches), docile, and hardy, and can survive as long as twenty-two years. They're \$60-but you'll also need to buy a starter bag of crickets for a buck, since that's what geckos like to eat.

Aqua-Tec can also set you up with a beginner fish tank set for about \$28, which includes the tank, filter, air pump and line, and thermometer. Easy-care schooling fish like neons or mollies are three for \$10. A river tank designed to accommodate frogs, turtles, and water dragons (including the imaginatively named Jesus lizards, which run across the surface of the water) runs

Stuff the stocking of a music lover with musical pins (treble clefs, pianos, trumpets, eighth notes), \$3.50 and up at Julie's Music on Stadium. Julie's also sells coffee mugs whose handle is a graceful eighth note (\$12.50), rubber coasters with piano keys (\$13), and handmade ties and scarves with flowing musical scores (\$12).

Toddler fashionistas will look just right in a velvet blazer with matching skirt from Old Navy in Arborland (\$19.50 and \$12.50, respectively). For little ones who prefer a more casual holiday look, longsleeved cotton tees painted with faux beaded necklaces look equally festive. They're \$9.50. Grown-ups schlepping all the baby gear from house to car and back again will appreciate faux shearling trapper hats, complete with earflaps, for \$12.50, and faux-fur-lined hoodies, \$44.50.

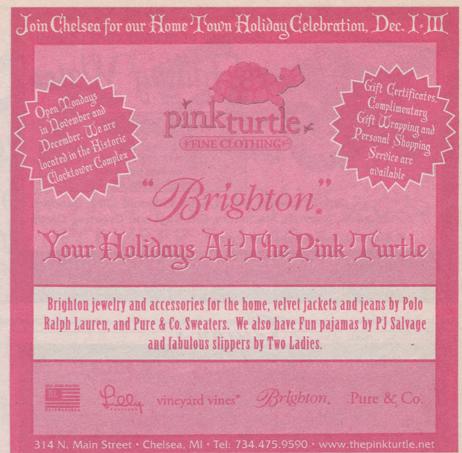
Would-be pool sharks and hustlers could use Robert Byrne's Standard Video of Trick Shots, a handy little demonstration of how to use props like racks, coins, and paper tubes-and how to employ dubious techniques like secretly adding moisture or chalk to the balls. It's \$30, at Allstate Billiards & Game Room Furniture on Washtenaw. For rec room dart enthusiasts, a \$4 Dart Mechanic kit has everything you need to tighten shafts and reshape them for symmetry and tighten the tips-and includes a bottle opener.

What do golfers do during a Michigan winter? They keep right on playing, of course. Miles of Golf on Carpenter will keep your golfer warm with Titleist fleece cart mitts, \$54, fleece hats, \$28, and fleece ear bands, \$20. Lucky duffers taking their clubs to warmer climes might appreciate a red and black golf bag travel cover. \$149.99.

Nothing says "Christmas morning" like a toy train chugging around the base of the tree. Rider's Hobby Shop, at Ellsworth and Carpenter, stocks trains for all ages and budgets, from a \$25 wooden set perfect for toddlers to the \$120 Iron Horse Express with track, freight cards, engine, and matching caboose.

One of our family holiday traditions is the ongoing jigsaw puzzle we set up on a coffee table so people can work on it whenever they've a mind to. If you don't have enough room to keep a puzzle going 24/7, a Roll-O-Puzzle felt rolling mat keeps both stray pieces and the semiassembled puzzle safe until next time. The mats cost \$11.99 to \$49.99 and accommodate 1,000- to 6,000-piece puzzles. Is there such a creature as a 6,000-piece jigsaw puzzle? Oh, yes. They're \$69.99 at Rider's, and they take every bit as long to assemble as you'd think they would.

Extreme knitting? Indeed. With a set of Skacel "turbo" circular needles (\$25) from Flying Sheep Yarns on South Industrial, the needleworker on your list just might break land speed records. Young beginners might like the Crochet Cuties Fashion







with this coupon

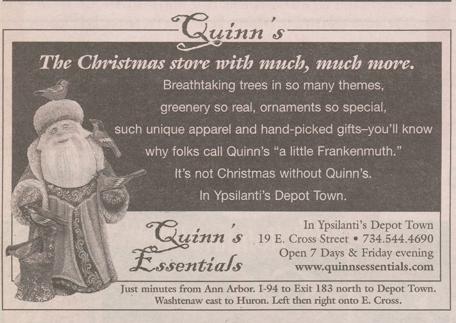
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FLATSNOOTS CHRISTMAS TREES

Fairly Big Time News Flash

Somewhat Important Info

Greetings!

It's true that Flatsnoots World Headquarters will be located at the same place as last year:

· 3500 Washtenaw near US 23 (Across from Arborland)

However, the outpost of progress Stadium lot has met its demise due to Flatsnoot being older, weaker and increasingly cranky.

At World Headquarters we will be selling:

DOUGLAS FIR • FRASER FIR • CONCOLOR FIR

BLUE SPRUCE • WHITE SPRUCE • SCOTCH PINE • WHITE PINE

Sized from 3 foot tabletops to majestic 15-footers. We also have a fine selection of wreaths (decorated and undecorated), roping (garland), and tree stands. Bring in your stand and we will fresh cut, prune and fit your tree to your stand. Tree delivery is also available.

10% to Senior Citizens

10% to anybody who wears a sombrero 10% to anyone shorter than my friend Phil

This year we offer these discounts: Flatsnoots comes to Ann Arbor to erect Mission Statement: our portable arbor and to do some urban camping. To see old friends and to meet new friends. To enjoy ourselves and not to be boneheads, and perhaps to sell a few Christmas trees and wreaths.

Peace & Prosperity to All!



HOLIDAY GUIDE 2006

continued

Show (\$13), a learning kit that teaches the basics of crochet with a twist on oldfashioned clothespin dolls.

For those who found the original Trivial Pursuit a trifle too challenging, the Trivial Pursuit Pop Culture 2 DVD at Target (\$35) levels the playing field a bit. Instead of having to know who said "Veni, vidi, vici" (Julius Caesar), players are asked, "What rock star declared on his 1995 album Circus, 'Rock 'n' roll is dead'?" (Answer: Lenny Kravitz.)

Also at Target, you can make someone's life just a little odder with a Tikihead tissue cover box, \$20. Made of lightweight resin to resemble stone, this faux Polynesian mask is designed to allow the tissue paper to flow out the nose. Alternately, you can keep Junior amused and evade prowling patrol cars with the Hot Wheels Radar Gun (\$2.99).

e likes Swedish Modern; she likes Art Deco. They'll both go for the clean, sculptural lines of gleaming silver Nambé "kissing" salt and pepper shakers, \$79 at Macy's. Handmade in Sante Fe, New Mexico, the shakers have round, flat tops that are squared off on one side, so they nest lovingly together. Macy's also has sumptuous cashmere-blend throws for \$135, and decadently soft leather cashmerelined gloves for \$69 in red, tan, black, brown, ivory, and ecru.

All the best-dressed pets will be sporting Casual Canine jackets from the Four-Legged Socialite, a new kiosk at Briarwood near Sears. They're \$14 and are available in traditional houndstooth, bathtime terry, and a duckie pattern that looks pretty much like a baby romper. There are little doggie Michigan jerseys, too.

If H&M's inventory is any indication, this is the Year of the Enormous Knit Scarf. The Briarwood clothier has at least half a dozen different scarves in stock, each around fifteen feet long and almost half a foot wide, in different weaves, colors, and patterns. They're all \$15 each. Canvas satchels are a great buy at \$20. They're lined with pockets inside and out, and come in fall-friendly earth tones.

Anyone born after today's date in 1988 has to get a parent or guardian to present a photo ID and sign a consent form before getting ears pierced at Claire's. This doesn't have much to do with holiday presents, but we paused for longer than we cared to admit to contemplate that in 1988 we were already married and buying our first house, while neonates were apparently planning their first diamond stud. Claire's has lots of great earrings, natch, as well as \$16 folding vanity stools.

Feel the music-and the PlayStation explosions, and the full-body tackleswith an iCush, \$120 at GNC. It's an interactive seating cushion that fits over your chair and surrounds you with sound and vibration from its adjustable dual speakers. An adapter connects directly to your TV, MP player, or iPod or to any gaming console, and with audio synching, the cushion will pulse to every sound.

Little girls rule at Lil Princess, where gauzy butterfly wings (\$6), feather boas (\$6), and pink china tea sets (\$30) make great gifts. For a more adult kind of grrrl power, Victoria's Secret has "rock the cute" pink panties in various patterns, sized from tiny to tinier, five for \$25. Not everything at Victoria's Secret is revealing; this season, the store is well stocked with flannel PJs (\$49) in black and pinkof course, the model in the photograph topping the display is wearing hers with the top flamboyantly open.

A-Studio, next to Von Maur, has the usual assortment of framed celebrity photography-Brando, Dean, Gable, Monroe, Elvis, Bogie-as well as fascinating photographs etched into glass, wired for sound, and lit from behind with roving lights that give the effect of motion. The most spectacular, a 3-D fish tank with a startlingly realistic coral reef (\$140), features wriggling clown fish, rippling current, and burbling water sound effects.

Francophiles and foodies alike would enjoy a treat from Chez Pierre. The Briarwood boutique offers chocolates spiked with liqueur (\$17.50 for an assortment of twenty-four), a fabulous selection of French mustards (\$30 gets you a threepack), and Cointreau-infused pound cake (\$7.50). There's gorgeous glassware, too, including a curvaceous decanter (\$71) with a glass stopper and a horizontal "wine vase" that looks like a stylized glass gravy boat.

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ne of our relatives loves surprising people with weird Asian snacks in their stockings. This year, we've got her beat, with a \$4.29 tub of candied dried smelt from China Merchandise in Plymouth Mall. The shop also has an interesting selection of sake sets, including a slightly risqué set in which the cups and vessel are naked female torsos with little red hearts in lieu of genitalia and "I love you" printed across their chests. It's \$8. For another \$11.50, you can include a magnum of sake.

Kay Yourist's whimsically organic vases at Yourist Pottery on Broadway look a little like torsos, too, with plump little bellies and squat little legs. She also makes mugs with ergonomic handles (\$18) and bowls as beautiful as they are functional (\$14 and up). Sculptors would appreciate the must-have tool of the year: a slingshot facet tool for scoring lines and grooves in vessels, handmade by a wood-carver who got bored with making salad tongs and turned to tools. They're \$14.

We both fell in love with PlasmaCars (\$70) at Tree Town Toys in Traver Village. They look like pint-size, futuristic race cars, but instead of being operated with continued

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PlasmaCars aver Village. uristic race erated with





From the top: bead-encrusted trees at Frames Unlimited; Kay Yourist's plump pottery; a photo etched on glass, illuminated, and wired for sound, at A-Studio; Automoblox car from Tree Town Toys.

pedals, they use the natural forces of inertia, centrifugal force, gravity, and friction. All the driver does is twist the wheel back and forth, and the car moves easily on any flat, smooth surface. Tree Town also has appealingly chunky Automoblox (assembleit-yourself cars made with big, easy-tohold wheels and pieces, \$35), Breyer collectible china horses, and, from Melissa & Doug, wooden play food (totally Ann Arbor: wooden pretend sushi, and a "healthy snack" assortment containing fruits, vegetables, milk, and yogurt).

"Yahoo dorez"? "Wahoo, flores"? Does anyone know what those Whos were singing down in Whoville? According to one Grinch fansite, it's "Fah who for-aze," which is probably as good a guess as any. Whatever they were singing, they would have looked just right dancing around the bead-encrusted, fanciful trees (\$13-\$32) at Frames Unlimited in Plymouth Mall. Equally Seussian: feathered, cone-shaped trees in rich deep green or claret, \$24.

Now, if you'll excuse us, we've got some serious shopping to do. If we're lucky, we'll be done just in time to carve the roast beast.

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Restaurant Reviews

The Earle Uptown

Big night out

The cosseting begins outside, when you hand your car keys to the parking valet. No worries-just leave the car and enter the cozy lobby of the Bell Tower Hotel. On cold nights there will be a fire crackling. You can warm those hands for a moment at the hearth before going into the dining room.

If you have reserved, your table will

be ready. Kristine Kashube, the knowledgeable sommelière who once led wine lovers to treasures in the stacks at the old Merchant of Vino, will likely lead you to your table. The Earle Uptown has been in business for only three years, but it feels older, teetering somewhere between gracious, Old World gemütlichkeit and anachronism. No doubt that's because it retained so much from its predecessor, Escoffier, including the long wooden bar and crystal chandeliers.

Such an environment imposes civility; even when the room is full, the sound level is muted, and there are more jacketsand-ties here than perhaps in any other dining room in town. But it's more relaxing than stuffy, and especially after a generous pour of good wine (Uptown's stash is, after all, kin to the formidable cellar of the Earle on Washington), it makes you want to whisper secrets to your friends.

It is clear that the waitstaff hold the customer and the food in high regard, and understand both. The menu is short-just a baker's dozen of main courses, and about the same number of potential starters. Most of them follow the lines of traditional French fare-dishes that feel neither in nor out, but beyond fashion.

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45pm

Though this menu could have been written forty years ago, the execution and delivery are crisply modern. The kitchen's timing was flawless during two leisurely meals, and the food was set apart by details. Take the salads. They begin with fresh and exotic greens, but those are ubiquitous today. The other elements are what make the Roquefort-andpear salad stand out-the tangy and richly veined cheese, sweet walnuts, and subtly nutty vinaigrette. The croutons with the green salad are not yesterday's bread cubes; they're cheese toasts blanketed in just-melted Comté, a kind of sweet, creamy Gruyère.

The crab cakes starter (also available as an entree) came close to fulfilling sense memories from childhood trips to Chesapeake Bay: small, dense cakes of sweet



fresh crab, well seasoned and fried crisp. The thick red-pepper-and-basil sauce was an excellent complement to the cakes. The artichoke heart stuffed with goat cheese was a knockout, the smooth texture of the 'choke (and that weird chemical reaction in the taste buds that artichokes create) a foil for the creamy broiled goat cheese.

mong the plats principaux, the beef is of the sort that does the Midwest proud. Hash marks on my husband's huge porterhouse testified to a quick turn on the grill that kept the inside rosy. A soubise sauce worked nicely alongside it. My exquisitely tender fillet was done up as "tournedos Henri IV," but what really struck me was the béarnaise sauce with that tenderloin: multilayers of butter and lemon, a liquid-velvet consistency, and swirls of whole fresh tarragon leaves.

The stuffed monkfish was delicious, the firm lobsterlike fish contrasting with an airy dollop of shrimp mousse in the center, and plated with a knockout sauce of red peppers and cream finished with shrimp butter. The salade niçoise placed a grilled tuna fillet (thin and dry, but nicely cooked) as the centerpiece of a mixed salad of lettuces, boiled egg, crisp green beans, and anchovies; it was fine, but I'd rather eat all those chilled greens in a warmer season. I wavered between the salmon and duck breast when ordering, and in hindsight, I wish I'd gone with the duck. The sautéed salmon with tiny bay scallops was beyond reproach but uninspired (although, as with everything here, fresh herbs were used to very good effect). Maybe I'm suffering from saumon-ennui-this fish is so widely served it needs more drama to make an impression on me.

Side dishes are ordered separately (at additional cost). A plate of pommes frites, meant to provide the other essential element in a steak-frites arrangement, was a disappointment. The limp, skinless fries were not remotely tempting. You have to wonder: How can a kitchen that manages such a perfect béarnaise serve potatoes like this? The pommes dauphine, crunchy orbs with a creamy potato center, are a better choice.

The meal ended on a high note, or two. Desserts are exceptional-hand crafted and hightoned but still satisfying. A lemon tart was served like a tiny deconstructed lemon meringue pie, with dollops of foamy meringue alongside buttery tart shells filled with a puckery lemon curd

that actually tastes like the fruit. An apple torte manically crisscrossed with caramel sauce was made even better by a homemade clove ice cream. Since we were splitting desserts, our server offered to divide each and serve us individually-just another one of the little added luxuries

hey do take care of you, but at these prices, they ought to. I couldn't bring myself to order the \$48 tournedos Rossini, even with the Observer picking up the check. Maybe I was put off by the thought of a controversial ingredient, foie gras. Then again, maybe I was successfully manipulated into choosing from the next-highest price category and feeling good about it. When does a \$36 entree look like a bargain except next to a \$48 one? (The New York Times calls this process "menu engineering.")

But this is a Big Night Out, not one for balancing the checkbook. Waiting outside for the valet to bring our car, I remembered that this quiet section of Thayer Street always seems a little otherworldly to me at night. I love this block when it snows. With the handsome Hill Auditorium at one side of the picture and graceful Burton Tower at the other, it feels like a scene from a 1940s movie, and a fitting setting for such a classic evening.

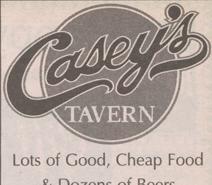
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5 Disability-friendly, although the short hallway leading to the restrooms is unlighted



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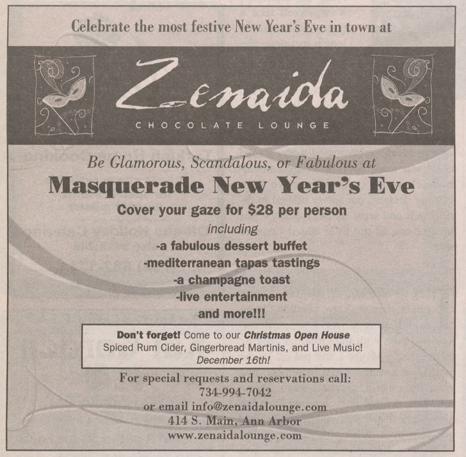
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Restaurant Reviews continued

Paesano's

Worth a stop

aesano's Restaurant and Wine Bar sits near Arborland amid a jumbled collection of big-box stores, one-off retailers, and mainly chain eateries. When forced to travel this stretch of Washtenaw, I tend to grit my teeth and drive straight through unless I have a very specific mission. I had always vaguely wondered about Paesano's, though, as it is literally set apart from its surroundings by a nicely landscaped patio. Then I got wind of the new book by Paesano's Isabella Nicoletti, Perbacco Isabella!, one in a series of gorgeous local cookbooks published by Huron River Press. I learned that not only was Paesano's a unique restaurant, locally owned by the Roddy family since 1984, but there was an Italian, chef Nicoletti, behind the stove. So after years of driving past, I finally stopped at Paesano's.

It's almost cavelike in there: dark and cozy, with wooden beams, mellow lighting, stone accents, bouquets of dried herbs, and a labyrinthine series of dining rooms. It's also the sort of casual, familiar place that attracts a loyal following-we kept running into people we knew who told us they were regulars.

The menu shows imagination and a wonderful affinity for the kind of warming foods we need at this time of year. And although the execution doesn't always live up to the stated ambitions, the ingredients are high quality and fresh, and the presentation is careful and appealing.

Our server told us to "think inside the box" when ordering-the seasonal items are highlighted in a box on the menu, alongside a selection of dishes available year round. We dove in, starting with a classically autumnal appetizer of baked acorn squash deliciously filled, with smoky pancetta providing a wonderful contrast to the velvety sweet squash, and yet more interest provided by a tower of wispy-thin crisped onions. The tuna carpaccio starter was almost as goodsushi-grade tuna sliced so thin that it was nearly transparent, mixed prettily with crisp watercress-but it needed a more assertive dressing. These two specials, part of the fall menu that will be available for most of December, show the wisdom of that "inside the box" approach. When I went back for a second visit and ordered the calamari starter from the nonseasonal menu, it was so unpalatable we had to send it back.

An appetizer here may be superfluous anyway. Each entree comes with a cup of soup or generous salad, and for an additional \$3.75, you can move up to a specialty salad. I was immediately taken with the fig salad, in which tiny sliced green figs tangoed with slivered almonds on arugula, dressed lightly with olive oil and lemon juice. The autumn panzanella salad was tasty, combining crisp greens and radicchio with a mix of sautéed mushrooms; yet I think of panzanella as a bread salad, and this one contained two croutons that felt more like afterthought than star.

Main courses were all over the map on our first visit. I was lucky to get the Umbrian-style squab-I say "lucky" because my first choice, a lobster gnocchi special, had run out, and the server didn't tell us until halfway through the meal. But my second-choice squab, actually roasted Cornish hen, was the best entree of the night: a tender roasted fowl in a rich dark sauce with earthy-herbal overtones, alongside potatoes alla delfina, a sort of crisped roasted smashed potato with a hint of garlic. The filet mignon with a porcini crust was cooked beyond the medium rare requested, with the crust burnt rather than seared on-tragically so, since this was a huge, thick, first-rate cut of beef; even a ragu of mushrooms and a tower of crispy fried sweet potatoes couldn't make up for it. Haddock with a pistachio crust was fine, though its bland fontina cheese sauce added little but calories. A quail dish was almost inedible, with an overwhelming, cloying fruity-vanilla sweetness that permeated everything on the plate.

n later visits I discovered Paesano's pasta-surely among the best in town. Every pasta dish I sampled was delicious, from the classic fettuccine Bolognese with a lusty meat sauce to the cavatelli with a richly textured vegetarian ragu of caramelized autumn veggies. Two pasta dishes from the year-round menu stood out: the "shellfish and seaweed" and the rigatoni with greens. In the "seaweed" dish, the shellfish adornment was simple and light, with steamed mussels, shrimp, crab, and chopped clams in a clear broth that let the sea flavors shine through. All this was over a toothsome house-made spinach pasta (the "seaweed" in the dish's name). And all of us loved the rigatoni tossed with crumbled Italian sausage, hot peppers, and Romano cheese, topped with mixed wilted greens.

Our dessert picks, a silky Concord grape panna cotta and a poached "naked" pear in cream sauce, were pretty on the plate and pleasant on the palate. I stuck to my staid espresso after dinner, but my friends ordered cappuccino. What a production! It was served with an array of condiments-sticks of cinnamon, turbinado sugar, big chocolate swirls, and whipped cream.

One afternoon we dropped by for lunch, and I took advantage of Paesano's \$7.50 soup-and-half-sandwich special. The soups always include the staple minestrone, full of robust flavors in a predominantly tomato base. The daily special that afternoon was a bean soup rich with pancetta. On another trip it was a vegetable-beef stew, in which the meat had that wonderful fall-apart quality that comes from long, slow cooking. My half sandwich was piled high with roast beef on a slice of grilled bread, sprinkled with creamy-melty blue cheese, and topped with an onion-mushroom sauté. My friend's "sandwich the chef eats for lunch" was very good as well: a grilled chicken

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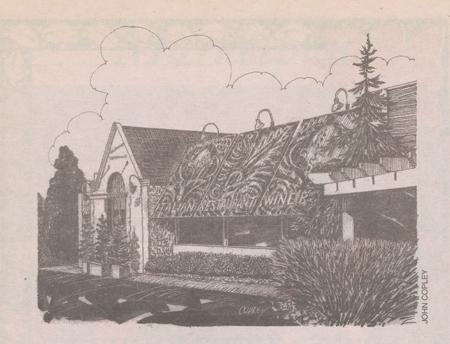
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breast with long strips of crispy prosciutto and a sweet-hot marmalade that made frank use of chipotle peppers.

A few weeks ago, Julia Moskin of the New York Times described the charming waitstaff at a Manhattan restaurant, who, she wrote, must be imported in carloads from Ann Arbor and Madison. It's good to know we still have something to export, though one wishes it weren't the kids. In any case, plenty of these midwestern wonder-servers still work in town. Paesano's crew is made up of relentlessly cheerful, smart, and efficient young women, well versed in the menu and wine list. It's the kind of place where your server writes "Thank you!" and signs her name with a heart beside it on the check, and is too sweet to even hint that you've been nursing those after-dinner coffees past closing. Such gentility combines well with the exuberant, wholesome fare for a comfortable evening.

Paesano's Restaurant and Wine Bar 971-0484 3411 Washtenaw

Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, Sun. noon-10 p.m.

Dinner: appetizers \$7.95-\$13.95, salads \$3.75-\$7.95, pasta \$11.95-\$18.95, entrees \$15.95-\$28.95, desserts \$3.95-\$6.95. Lunch: salads \$3.75-\$13.95, sandwiches \$8.50-\$9.95, pasta and entrees \$9.95-\$15.75

5 Disability-friendly

Quick Bites

Nancy Steinhauer got me thinking more optimistically about peace on earth recently. Steinhauer, whose family owns the Dexter Cider Mill, was a delegate to the Slow Food International conference in Turin, Italy, at the end of October. "It was great," says Steinhauer. "I'm so amazed that we had thousands of delegates in one room-all getting along, all concentrating on one end result. Everybody just wanted to achieve a better earth."

Organized in Italy twenty years ago to promote local food production and traditional cuisine, the Slow Food movement has since spread around the world; Steinhauer and Nick Seccia, executive chef at the Henry Ford museum complex, represented the Slow Food Huron Valley Con-

Also attending were local farmers Rosanne and Tom Bloomer, who grow corn, wheat, and soybeans at their 160acre farm north of Ann Arbor. The Bloomers applied for their delegate status through the national umbrella organization, Slow Food USA. The Bloomers fall into the grower-producer category, since they grow food-grade soybeans, roast them, coat them with seasonings, and market them as Rosie's Roasters through mostly Michigan grocers. They also have a line of gourmet popcorn, and make a trail mix of soybeans, cranberries, sunflower seeds, chocolate, and Michigan cherries, which they took to Turin as a sample of local wares. The Bloomers stayed in Turin's Olympic Village, where their group of twenty-eight included a cheese producer from Wisconsin, a wildblueberry producer from New Orleans, and organic honey producers. "People were very open to sharing," says Bloomer.

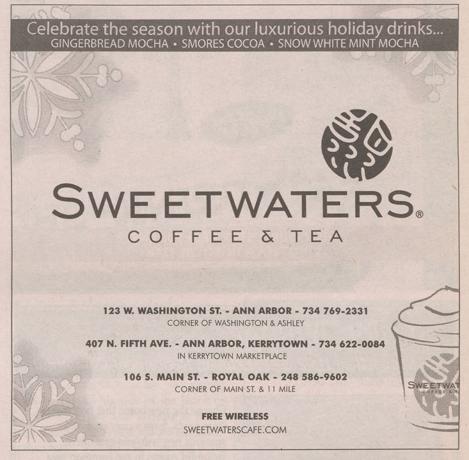
Nancy Steinhauer said she found the meeting of the 300 U.S. chefs, growers, and producers especially useful. That may be because her family's business is expanding from cider and doughnut production to becoming a grower-producer. Last spring they started an orchard with 250 apple trees on eighty acres in Chelsea. In three to four years, they hope to be able to start harvesting from those trees. While at the conference, Steinhauer was put up in a local convent, although the dining there sounded anything but spartan. Every night when the delegates would return, the nuns would have dinner ready-homemade pasta, a meat dish, salad, cheese, fruit, bread-and, she says, "flowing wine."

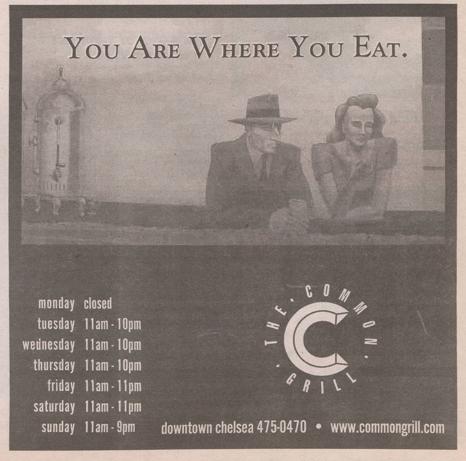
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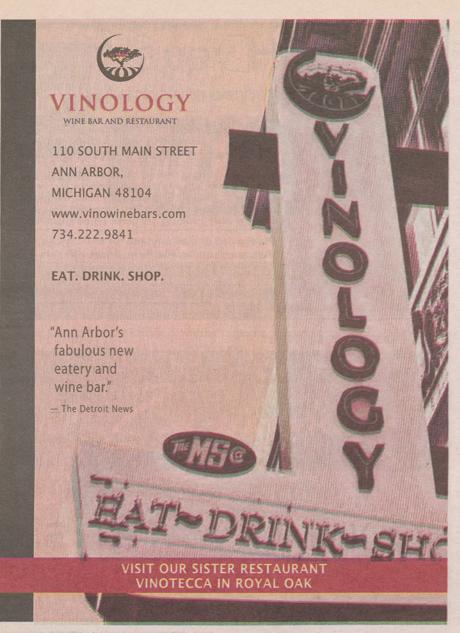
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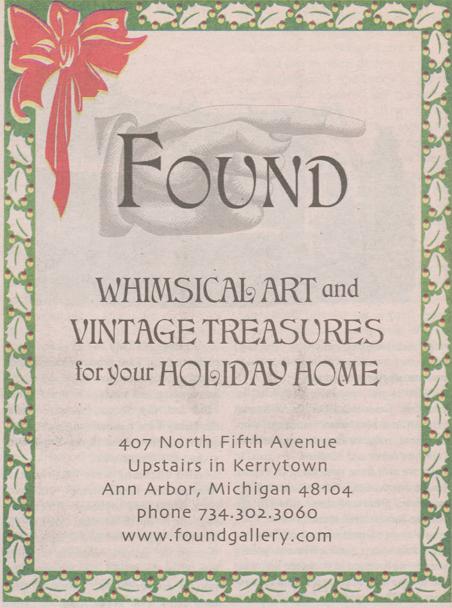
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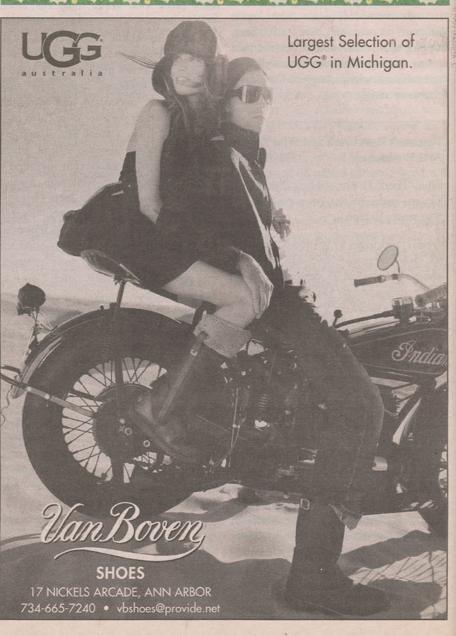
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Marketplace Changes



Family business: former state rep Mary Schroer owns Peartree with her daughters, Amy Bolt and Jennifer Schroer.

back). In between, there are unusual Christmas ornaments, reproductions of antique botanical prints, bowls of beaded pears, an antique dresser, throw pillows, and much

Jennifer and Amy are identical twins (Jennifer has the longer hair), but they don't always have identical ideas about how to run the business. They do, however, love working together and with their mom, as she does with them. "Many former politicians have claimed they are retiring from politics to spend more time with their family," says Mary. "I guess I really am doing it.

Peartree Furnishings & Gifts, 217 North Main, 761-3333. Probable hours: Mon. noon-7 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. & Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-

The continuing adventures

and bubble tea

s bookseller Fred Ulrich did before him, Nizar el-Awar has been quietly buying up his side of the block on South University and turning it into a modest empire. El-Awar started out smaller than most, with his 1985 opening of the Oasis Cafe. It was seven feet wide—so narrow, a long-limbed customer could

and the Oasis has moved to the former

of Nizar el-Awar

He's adding hookahs

stand in the middle and touch both walls. These days, el-Awar's candy store, Sweet U, occupies that minuscule space,

Peartree moves to Ann Arbor

Chelsea's loss is North Main's gain

ormer state representative Mary Schroer and her twin daughters, Jennifer Schroer and Amy Bolt, are hoping to become part of a North Main Street renaissance. The trio moved Peartree Furnishings & Gifts from an out-of-theway location in Chelsea to the former Art Warehouse space in November. Along with fellow newcomer Edible Arrangements, they hope to anchor Main Street's northernmost retail block and attract the kind of customers more traditionally found south of Huron.

Peartree has a significant advantage: a proven track record as a destination store. Even tucked away on Sibley Road, far from Chelsea's downtown, Peartree drew just as many customers from Ann Arbor and Livingston County as it did from Chelsea itself. The attraction is Peartree's appealing combination of "shabby chic" slipcovered furniture, dining room tables and chairs, reproduction and real antiques, unique accents, and unusual gift items. Jennifer and Amy, who both studied art

history before pursuing separate advanced degrees and careers, have always loved interior design, and their enthusiasm shows in the store's well-chosen, beautifully displayed pieces.

The new space is narrow but sunny, with hardwood floors, fresh paint, warm brick walls, and plenty of room for browsing. Both front and back are devoted to cottage-style furnishings (slipcovered sofas in the window, a sumptuous bed at the



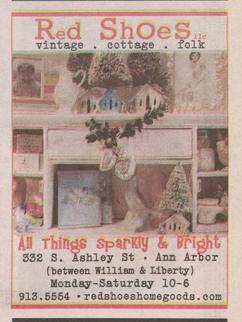
Nizar el-Awar knows how to make the most of small spaces—his South U empire started with a seven-foot-wide cafe. Now he's launched Rendez-Vous Express in a trailer parked off East U.



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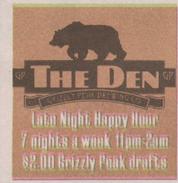














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Chicken & Artichoke Fritters With blue cheese créme fraiche. \$6.95

Squash Fettuccine

Autumn squash-flecked pasta with roasted pumpkin sauce, red Swiss chard, spiced pepitas, grilled rustic bread and parmesan. \$12.95

Ham Hock Ravioli

House-made ravioli with smoked ham hocks, wilted greens, forest mushrooms and Vella dry jack cheese. \$13.95

Berkshire Pork Chop

A country-style chop, with roasted fruit chutney and white corn grits. \$16.95

Smoked Chicken Club

House-smoked free-range chicken breast, crisp bacon, arugula, avocado and Vella jack cheese on grilled Italian bread. \$8.95

Pulled Pork Sandwich

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Normandie Flowers next door, which el-Awar bought last year. Alongside, his two-story Rendez-Vous Cafe is going great guns, and he recently acquired a trailer, which he's parked off East University behind National City Bank, in a parking lot space he rented from his landlord. Dubbed Rendez-Vous Express, the trailer sells lots of coffee and bubble tea as well as hot and cold sandwiches and Middle Eastern specialties. The trailer is both heated and air conditioned, so it'll stay

El-Awar is even encroaching on Ulrich's side of the street, where he opened a nail salon last year. This winter, however, he's turning that space into Smoka Hookah, a cigar and hookah shop with a walk-in humidor and a wide selection of water pipes and flavored tobacco. "We serve hookah at the Rendez-Vous, and customers have been asking where they can buy the pipes and the tobacco," he says.

around all year.

Just as cigar smoking and cigar bars caught on at first in New York and on the West Coast and spread inland, so, too, have hookah bars and cafes. Aficionados say the hookah smoke isn't as overpowering as cigar smoke, and because the tobacco is filtered through water, the strongest aroma that comes through is the flavor (often something sweet, like strawberry), rather than the nicotine.

Rendez-Vous Express is open now. Smoka Hookah should follow sometime in

Rendez-Vous Express, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

Smoka Hookah, 1113 South University, phone and hours unavailable at press

Changes around Kerrytown

Motte & Bailey expands, and MarketPlace Grill becomes the Metro Cafe

Then Gene Alloway and Paul Hare were packing up their used-book store, Motte & Bailey, for a move from Ann Street to Fourth Avenue, almost every single person who passed by asked them if the store was going out of business. "I think so many people are used to bookstores closing that it's unusual to see one open or expand," Alloway says. "This is a good move for us. We're more on the beaten track.'

Alloway and Hare (and a third partner who's since moved on) started Motte & Bailey as an Internet store in 1996. By 2000 they had enough business to justify a storefront on Ann, and, six years later, to motivate a move to slightly larger quarters on Fourth Avenue.

Named after a type of Norman castle, Motte & Bailey carries all genres but specializes in general nonfiction and particularly i librari Hare ! dieval inforn said, t eral ar as a b cludin Abrah prove Ev

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larly in history. Alloway has degrees in librarianship and classical history, and Hare has degrees in education and medieval history, making them uniquely well informed about the books they sell. That said, the new location features more general and classic fiction than the old, as well as a broader selection of nonfiction, including new sections on stage magic and Abraham Lincoln, two areas that have proven surprisingly popular.

Even though the partners sold over 5,500 volumes in preparation for the move, there are still 10,000 books in stock. Alloway and Hare expect that 40 to 60 percent of those books will end up being

"I think so many people are used to bookstores closing that it's unusual to see one open or expand," says Gene Alloway of Motte & Bailey.

sold on the Internet, but they believe in locals' having first crack: new titles spend a week or two on a "new books" shelf in the store before being listed on the website.

Alloway and Hare believe that while searching through dusty piles of books is part of the charm for some buyers of used books, others want an environment similar to that of a new bookstore: clean, well lighted, orderly, and turning inventory over frequently. "There's something to be learned from independents and chain bookstores," Alloway says. "We like a more organized shop, and one that changes. It's not going to be the same trip when you come back after a couple of weeks."

One thing hasn't changed: the picture of a real motte and bailey-a wood-andearth castle in England-near the cash register. Customers who know what it is get a 10 percent discount.

Motte & Bailey, Booksellers, 212 North Fourth Avenue, 669-0451. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun.

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Chris Gaulke has overseen so many different restaurants at 303 Detroit Street that he's able to joke about it. Gaulke originally joined the staff of Pelagos Mediterranean Grill (formerly Pelagos Taverna, which replaced Cafe 303, which replaced two different versions of Sweet Lorraine's). Not long after he got there, the Panos family, who along with family friend Pauline Skinner owned the eating place as Plaka, Inc., scrapped the concept and replaced it with a mainstream American restaurant, MarketPlace Grill, that lasted a scant eight months. Now the restaurant has been sold to new ownerswho've borrowed Gaulke to oversee their entirely new concept: the Metro Cafe.

This location has gone through five restaurants in ten years, but yes, we're really going to make a go of it," he says with good cheer. "This time the new owners will work in house, and they've got a

good, solid idea of what they want. They're driven to succeed."

The new owners are David Gibbons, who owns dog-grooming business Groom N' Go, and his partner, Diogenes Estrada. They've never owned a restaurant before, but they're good cooks with a clear vision: they see the Metro Cafe as a middle-toupscale, gay-friendly restaurant. Like the \aut\ Bar, owned by their friends Martin Contreras and Keith Orr in nearby Braun Court, they want the Metro to be comfortable for both heterosexual and homosexual singles, couples, and families. The Metro, however, is designed to be less of a bar and more of a full-scale restaurant, and is marketing itself equally to gay and straight diners. "Ann Arbor has the most liberal conservative people in the world," Gaulke says. "It's a very tolerant community-to a degree. We don't want to offend or exclude anyone."

Open since mid-November, the Metro Cafe is contemporary, sleek, and urban. Its sign and name play on the logo for the London subway system, and its walls are adorned with black-and-white photography of trains and London streetscapes. Gaulke feels that the location is a destination-only spot with little or no walk-in traffic, and that a strong concept is essential to attract clientele.

The menu includes both small and large plates with an international flair. Some of the small plates are appetizers, like crab Rangoon or Thai-style curried mussels; others are petite entrees like lamb confit and sesame tuna at \$8-\$13. Hungry patrons will want two. There are \$15-\$25 large-plate entrees as well-steaks, seafood, pasta-and soups and sandwiches. The new owners call it "globally inspired contemporary cuisine."

Gaulke, who has put in more than enough time at the Detroit Street location to have some idea of what might work there and what might not, is enthusiastic about the new concept, and eager to hear customer response. "I'm actually very excited by what they've put together here," he says. "After as many hours as I've put in here, I'd love to see something actually

The Metro Cafe, 303 Detroit Street, 213-9100. Happy hour Tues.-Fri. 4-6 p.m.; dinner Sun. & Tues.-Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Closed Mon.

Briefly Noted

Is Ann Arbor really dress-casual? Patricia Wojtowicz is in a unique position to know. As the new owner of the Klothes Kloset consignment shop in Lamp Post Plaza, she sees firsthand what Ann Arbor professional women and wives of faculty members and businessmen really do wear-and she says most of it is pretty darn upscale. "We get Eileen Fisher, Prada, Kate Spade," she says, naming a few top designers. "And so many people affiliated with the university have traveled or lived overseas, so we see a lot of nice clothes from Japan, Hong Kong, Italy, and

Wojtowicz has done quite a bit of trav-







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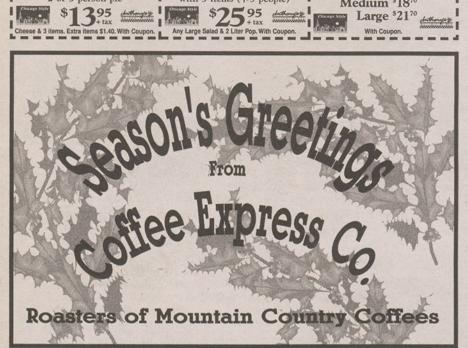
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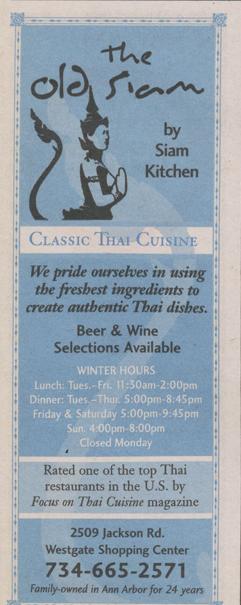
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Marketplace Changes continued

eling herself. While selling surgical instruments, she lived and worked in Europe and South America, as well as in Chicago, New York, and Boston. An Ann Arbor native, she came back in 2001 to go to grad school, and started buying and rehabbing real estate in order to pay her expenses. Along the way, she got hooked on reuse stores. When Sandy Stapish put the Klothes Kloset up for sale, Wojtowicz was ready to buy.

About a quarter of the store's consignors are regulars; the rest are first-timers who must make an appointment, so Wojtowicz can go through their merchandise with them and make sure they understand the store's needs. She accepts only items in season and in "like new" condition, and in styles no more than two years old-unless it's something classic, like a fur coat. She stays away from lower-end brands like Old Navy, Kohl's, Target, and Lands' End, because she can't compete with the stores' own sale prices. Klothes Kloset customers, she says, especially love the above-mentioned designers, as well as Chico's and L. L. Bean.

Consignors get 40 percent of the sale, which they can receive in cash or have credited to their account-a credit they can use against their own purchases. "People love that," Wojtowicz says. "It's treat

After a number of years of working for corporations, entrepreneurship is suiting Wojtowicz just fine. "It's empowering, and it's humbling, it's sometimes hardam I making the right decisions?" she says. "But I'm comfortable taking chances. And I was getting to a point in my life when I was ready to take this one."

The Klothes Kloset, 2410 East Stadium Boulevard (Lamp Post Plaza), 971-6211. Mon.-Wed. & Fri. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; open Sun. noon-4 p.m. during December for the holidays.

Keedo isn't just Keedo anymore.

Matt and Jenna Cyrulnik bought Keedo, a Kerrytown children's clothier, in May. But it wasn't until this fall that they finished selling off the old inventory and were able to start stocking the store the way they wanted to. Though they both love the Keedo line of South African clothing, many customers have asked for more: more selection, more sizes, toys, accessories, shoes.

At this point the store is about half Keedo, recognizable for its vibrant, 100 percent cotton clothing in distinctive, fun patterns. The rest of the boutique is given over to other clothing lines; locally made cotton baby slings; stylish LilyPad changing mats that fold up into clever little purses; plush animals; organic cotton toys made by Sri Lankan tsunami victims; and Emily Green place mats and bowls. Almost all of it is made from natural fibers and meets fair trade standards.

Jenna, who spends most of her time at

the store while Matt runs the couple's wholesale import business, is especially happy to offer customers Pedoodle softsoled shoes for babies and toddlers. In brilliant colors and sized zero to three, the shoes are beautiful and affordable, too: most are around \$35.

More changes are likely for both Keedo and the Cyrulniks, who are cooking up another retail concept they're not quite ready to talk about yet. In the meantime, Jenna hopes customers will keep those store requests coming. "I want to be able to bring my customers what they want," she says.

Keedo, 415 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown), 622-9580. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-

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Peter Roulo and Christopher Engelbert have designed and installed high-end sound systems for Babs' Underground Lounge, Prickly Pear, Gratzi, and the Chop House. Now they're offering their services to home owners in Ann Arbor through Eyemedia Sound & Vision, which opened in November in the former Stereo Shoppe space on Stadium.

Both Roulo and Engelbert once worked for the Stereo Shoppe, so they have a pretty good idea of what the traffic will bear. The Stereo Shoppe didn't prewire homes for sound or do custom audio or home theater installations, so Roulo trained through the Custom Electronics Design and Installation Association and began doing that sort of work on the side. In 2004, when fellow employee Engelbert started doing installations, too, the pair incorporated as Eyemedia and started handling all the installation work for the Stereo Shoppe.

By the time the Stereo Shoppe closed at the end of last year, the partners already had a business plan and had worked out a deal with the landlord to take over the space. They spent the first half of this year gutting the interior and remaking it as a more contemporary showcase for high-end installations and electronics.

Eyemedia doesn't sell prepackaged systems, because Roulo and Engelbert don't think much of them. "Every room and every situation varies so much," Roulo explains. "And custom solutions can often

A good portion of the business is devoted to home theater installations, a category that has boomed in the last few years. As with the audio side of the business, the partners want to differentiate Eyemedia from more mass-market electronics stores. "We're not just selling a surround-sound package that is good for listening to explosions," Roulo says.

Eyemedia Sound & Vision, 2335 West Stadium Boulevard, 418-3060. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

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Bernard Kliban, of cat cartoon fame, once wrote that you should "never eat anything bigger than your head." Rio Wraps burritos and wrapped deli sandwiches squeak by, but just barely. Stuffed into he couple's s especially doodle softto three, the rdable, too:

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2335 West Mon.-Fri. p.m., Sun.

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To all our loyal customers, thank you for your business these past two years. The wine shop has been great fun and has been successful. Earlier this year, we opened everyday cook and, just last month, we finished building the kitchen for cooking classes and events. We couldn't have done this without you. So, this holiday season, we'd like to treat you to a special offer.

In the month of December, everyone with an everyday wines/everyday cook bag will get 15% off a case of wine and 15% off any everyday cook purchase (excluding gift cards and cooking classes). Of course, you still get 10% off six bottles at everyday wines.

Don't have a bag and want one? Here are three easy ways to get one:

1) Buy four or more bottles of wine at once. 2) Make a purchase of \$50 or more at everyday cook. 3) Just buy a bag for \$10. (If you have a bag and want another one, we'd be happy to sell you a second one for \$7.50.)

We look forward to seeing you. And don't forget to bring your bag.

Interested in cooking classes? We hope to have online registration up and running in early December so please call or email us at everyday_wines@yahoo.com to find out how to access our site. To sign up for a class or special event, or to arrange one of your own, please stop by the store or call us.



734 827 COOK Dec Hours: M-F 10-6 Sat 9-6 Sun 11-6 We will be open till 8pm from Dec 11 to Dec 23



734 827 WINE Dec Hours: M-F 9-7 Sat 8-6 Sun 12-6 We will be open till 8pm from Dec 11 to Dec 23

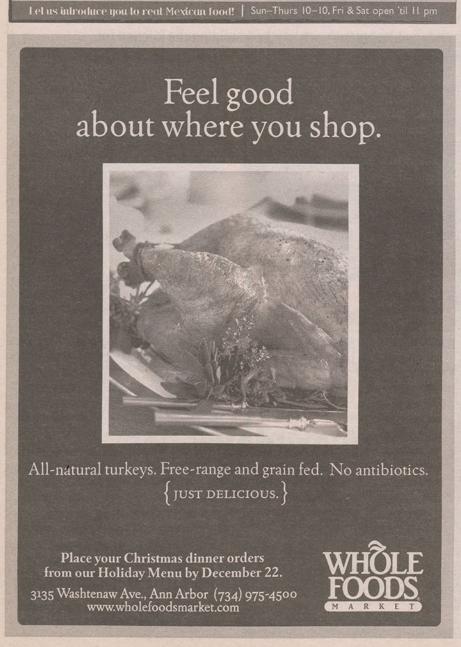
We are located in the Kerrytown® Market & Shops, next to the Farmer's Market. everyday wines is on the 1st floor and everyday cook is on the second floor above Hollanders.





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Marketplace Changes continued

thirteen-inch tortillas, most of the chain's offerings weigh in at around a pound.

Based in Bloomfield Hills, Rio Wraps is making a play to be a regional contender, with twenty-four locations in Michigan and the company's first out-of-state stores opening soon in Florida. Founded by former A&W executive Tom Stegeman and brothers Mark and Joe Sheena in 2000, Rio Wraps got on the Tex-Mex bandwagon relatively early. "Since we started, we've had five national chains come into this market," Stegeman says. "So you look back and say, 'Whew! This was obviously a good move."

Tex-Mex was and remains one of the "fast casual" restaurant industry's hottest concepts, but it's not as highly frequented as, say, Italian or deli joints. Stegeman and his partners wanted to attract more repeat customers, so they created a menu that's about 60 percent Tex-Mex-burritos, tacos, nachos-and 40 percent deli wraps and sandwiches. That puts Rio Wraps up against everyone from Baja Fresh and Qdoba to Potbelly and Amer's Deli. "Anybody that sells food is our competition," Stegeman says firmly.

Stegeman and his partners consider customer service key. Counter staff talk customers through their orders, asking them to choose their tortilla flavor (honey wheat, tomato basil, spinach, or traditional white flour), meat or vegetables, beans, cheese, and toppings. "You can take the order and make it in the back, in which case you eliminate customer service, or you can force an interaction with good people behind the counter who know how to communicate," Stegeman says. "Our concept lives or dies by our level of service. It's been a good choice for us:'

Rio Wraps is opening its first Ann Arbor location on William, in the spot once occupied by another Tex-Mex operation, the Burro. It's a small space, so the rustic, earth-toned eatery will focus mostly on carryout, using "lunch box" style cardboard containers to neatly hold a sandwich, chips, and salsa.

Because of its oversize sandwiches, Rio Wraps has tended to skew male. This year, in order to win over women and customers with smaller appetites, the chain has introduced "mini" sandwiches made on a ten-inch tortilla for \$2 less.

Rio Wraps, 613 East William, phone unavailable at press time. Probable hours: Sun.-Wed. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Thurs.-Sat. 11 a.m.-4 a.m.

Two more ink refill shops have joined the market: Ink Solution, on West Stadium, and Rapid Refill, on North Main. Ink Solution was founded in Florida in 2001 as a wholesaler of ink refilling machines, inks, toners, and printer accessories. In January of this year, the company relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, and began setting up licensees in their own stores. The crisp-looking black, red, and white Ann Arbor store is one of about a dozen

Rapid Refill started later-2002, in Eugene, Oregon-but since it began franchising sooner, it has more stores: around forty in a dozen states. The store has a markedly green philosophy: "No to landfills, yes to refills," reads one sign. It also urges customers to "turn trash into cash." Rapid Refill sells remanufactured cartridges as well as compatible and original equipment products.

Ink Solution, 1948 West Stadium Boulevard (West Stadium Shopping Center), 913-2751. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

Rapid Refill, 307 North Main, 996-4465. Mon-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sun.

202020

Those who shop regularly at outlet malls, where overstocked and out-ofseason merchandise is theoretically on sale at deep discounts, know that prices can still be startlingly high. But Orchid Lane's adjacent new shop, the Orchid Lane Warehouse, is truly a bargain hunter's dream come true: nothing in the store is

After Thano's Lamplighter went out of business earlier this year, Nancy Elias, who owns Orchid Lane, decided to take over the lease, almost on impulse. This summer she stocked the space with clothing from past seasons, incense, mirrors, masks, glass jewelry from Nepal, and other small treasures, and kept the prices determinedly low. Sales were brisk, and customers were enthusiastic. "People were really into it," says manager Denice Miller. "So we decided to keep it like that."

Miller says that eventually there'll be a doorway between the two shops and, possibly, more emphasis on home decor items in the Warehouse store. For now, though, the stock remains eclectic and the prices amazingly low. "Maybe we'll keep it cheap," she says. "It's kind of a nice thing to have downtown."

The Orchid Lane Warehouse, 421 East Liberty, 769-6804. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.

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In what one local blogger calls "another random Andy Gulvezan bar reimaging," the Full Moon has become the Monkey Bar. The Main Street restaurant and bar now sports a new green and coral color scheme and offers Tex-Mex dishes like burritos, tacos, nachos, and fajitas-along with almost as many different kinds of tequila as the Full Moon had bottled beer.

This isn't Gulvezan's first Monkey Bar. The downtown entrepreneur operated a short-lived tapas bar called the Monkey Bar & Grill down the street in the spot recently vacated by Pepperz. Gulvezan's other names and concepts have included the City Grill, the One-Eyed Moose, the Flame, Kitty O'Sheas, and Babs' Liberty Street Piano Bar. Currently, he operates the Alley Bar on West Liberty-as well as the new Monkey Bar.

The Monkey Bar, 207 South Main, 994-8484. Daily 5 p.m.-2 a.m.

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Zingerman's Times

Roadhouse Rings in the **New Year Monticello Style**

This New Year's Eve, Zingerman's Roadhouse takes guests back 200 years with a menu highlighting traditional dishes favored by one of the republic's original and most devoted foodies, Thomas Jefferson. Times readers can reserve a spot at this historic event by calling 734.663.FOOD. \$100 per person/ \$65 for fullcourse wine parings.

Apalachicola Oysters Make **Ann Arbor Debut**

Little known outside the South, Apalachicola oysters have arrived at the Roadhouse from Florida. Featured on the oyster sampler plate, these plump, briny, sweet oysters are taken from some of the only wild beds left in the U.S. and Times readers looking for a rare oyster taste are making reservations online at zingermansroadhouse.com or by calling 734.663.FOOD.

Little Dragons Spotted Inew at Zingerman's Creamery

Sources say the freshest goat cheese in town is taking on a new look and taste as Zingerman's Creamery unveils the Little Dragon. These pressed rounds are rolled in tarragon and the result is a cheese that is denser than a fresh goat cheese, with a mellower tone that allows for the flavor of the herbs to accent the cheese nicely. Insiders know to look for it at the Creamery's Cheese Shop and at Zingerman's Delicatessen starting December 1.



www. Zingermans. Com.

one-of-a-kind gifts shipping from zingermans.com "Zingerman's is the Center of my Gastrodeli Universe!" — Mario Batali

Times insiders report that finding gifts for the person who has everything is not a problem thanks to Zingerman's Mail Order. Notes zingermans.com fan Mario Batali, "Every single thing I have ever ordered to my house from the fragrant and intoxicating website is not only delicious, but is the definitive version for the world!"

Times sources further reveal that great service is making for happy gift-givers and gift-receivers throughout the U.S. Karen Lawrence of Woodville, Virginia, raves that Zingerman's gets "such a big chunk" of her Christmas list "because the quality and reliability last year were awesome, and the response from the recipients was fabulous! Thank you!"

The Wheelers in Scarsdale, NY, told the Times, "We were fortunate to receive a gift from [Zingerman's Mail Order] sent by a friend. The bread, olive oil and cheese (Parmigiano-Reggiano) knocked our socks off.



Out-of-this-world food at www.zingermans.com.or 888.636.8162.

three exclusives tracked down at zingerman's delicatessen

White Pepper Smoked Salmon

From Ann Arbor's nationally-renowned T. R. Durham comes a smoked salmon Times readers can only get at Zingerman's-fresh organic salmon, farmed off the west coast of Ireland, rubbed down with sea salt and Wynad white pepper from India, and smoked for 16-18 hours. Times insiders note that the fish is extremely rich and buttery with a delicate smoke flavor and a subtle pepper flavor that pairs beautifully with the taste of the fish.

Arkansas Long Pepper Bacon

Sources say Zingerman's also has an exclusive bacon made with Balinese long pepper from a family-owned smokehouse in the foothills of Mt. Petit Jean in Arkansas. Once common in Colonial-era American eating, the exotic flavors of the long pepper are rarely found these days, however Times reporters note that it delivers a uniquely spicy twist to the traditional black pepper bacon recipe.

La Casetta Vinegar from Australia

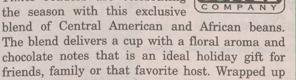
In other news, the La Casetta vinegar from Australia's Joseph winery is celebrating its first holiday season in the U.S. exclusively at Zingerman's. Times sources report this vinegar boasts a complex flavor described as "slightly sweet and really mouth watering, a bit caramelly, smooth, slightly sherry-like and almondy." It's showing up as a guest of honor at holiday meals across town and across the country thanks to zingermans.com.

Times readers looking for a scoop are snapping up these and loads of other hard-to-find treats all month long at Zingerman's Delicatessen.

Limited Edition Holiday Coffee Blend!

only available in december

Times readers are celebrating COMPANY the season with this exclusive



7 ingerman's

chocolate notes that is an ideal holiday gift for friends, family or that favorite host. Wrapped up in a festive holiday package, this coffee is easy to spot at Zingerman's Delicatessen and Next Door Coffeeshop and at the Bake Shop at Zingerman's Bakehouse and Zingerman's Roadhouse.

zingerman's bakehouse bakes the Yuletide bright

Times readers are embarking on flights of flavor without leaving their houses thanks to the Gingerbread Coffeecake. This exotic take on a classic favorite features an adventurous array of ingredients: crystallized and ground ginger from Asia, dark molasses, a bit of brewed coffee, real vanilla from Mexico, a splash of fresh orange juice, Indonesian cinnamon, cloves from the Malacca Islands, and Balinese long pepper.

Times sources have also spotted very serious Bakehouse elves busy squeezing over a half pound of dried cranberries and pecans into every loaf of the Cranberry Pecan Bread, available only during the holiday season.

The elves are also busy baking the old-fashioned holiday treats Panettone and Stollen only in December. The Panettone is naturally leavened with no commercial yeast, (just like Bakehouse Farm Bread) and baked up fluffy and golden with butter, eggs, vanilla bean, candied fruits, fresh oranges, and almonds. Made according to traditional methods, the loaves have been spotted hanging upsidedown to cool in order to keep the dough from sinking into itself.

Reports indicate that the traditional German Stollen is one of Ann Arbor's favorite holiday treats and the Bakehouse delivers an incredible rendition made with sweet butter, Bacardi rum, candied lemon and orange peel, oranges, Michigan dried cherries, citron, currants, almonds, sultanas, real vanilla and more.

Times readers can get a taste of tradition all month long at the Bakehouse on Plaza Drive.

BAKE! touted as 'a Sift that Should keep on Siving'

Times insiders report that classes at Zingerman's teaching bakery, BAKE! are filing up quickly, thanks in part to Nan Bauer's exposé in The Ann Arbor News.

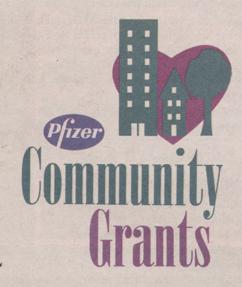
Bauer attended a bread baking class at BAKE! and discovered that students are not only trying out the Bakehouse's most beloved recipes, but going home with the goods they've made. Bauer suggests to give BAKE! classes as a present and then "drop lots of hints that this is a gift that should keep on giving." Upcoming classes include Baking Pies-A-Plenty, Build a Better Christmas-Gingerbread Houses, Christmas Breads Around the World, Showstopping Desserts, and Croquembouche, as well as BAKE-cation packages, BAKE's four-day courses that focus on bread (January 15-18) and pastry (February 5-8). Spots are LIMITED and Times readers are urged to reserve at 734.761.7255 or zingermansbakehouse.com.

The Science Behind a Great Community

"Community" is a core value at Pfizer.

This year, Pfizer Global Research and Development, Ann Arbor Laboratories gave more than one million dollars to non-profit organizations. A partial list of gift and grant recipients for 2006/2007 is provided. Our priority funding areas are the arts, access to healthcare, and science education.

We thank the many Pfizer colleagues and the community non-profit organizations who so generously contribute to make our community a better place to live and work.



PFIZER GRANTS TO NONPROFIT **ORGANIZATIONS**

the staff members, volunteers and patrons of contributions to our vibrant community.

WASHTENAW **UNITED WAY**

Pfizer donates to many nonprofit agencies in Pfizer colleagues have a long history of supporting the community, including those listed below. human services needs through the United Way. We salute these organizations and we thank Pfizer matches 100 percent of the contributions colleagues make through the United Way. The each organization for making such significant campaign raised more than \$1.8 million in 2006.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance- 2006 Dancing in the Streets

Ann Arbor Symphony- Sponsorship

Ann Arbor Youth Chorale- 2006-2007 Performance and Recruiting Season

Avalon Housing, Inc .- A is for Ann Arbor

Dance Gallery Foundation- Movement for Minds

HelpSource- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Washtenaw County



Children of Uganda

Judson Center-Program Support

Michigan Center for the Photographic Arts- Children's Mentorship Program

Michigan Theater Foundation- Not Just For Kids and Family Film Series

Michigan Youth Arts Festival- 2007 Michigan Youth Arts

Peace Neighborhood Center-Performance Arts Academy

Perry Nursery School of Ann Arbor- Make Art, Make Music Enrichment Program

Performance Network-Sponsorship

Summer Festival- Sponsorship

Regents of the University of Michigan (on behalf of the University of Michigan Museum of Art)- Embracing Eatonville and Outreach at UMMA

Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization- 2007 Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization's Programs

The Ark- 30th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival

University Musical Society- Sponsorship



Vincent York's Jazzistry- Keeping the Rhythm Alive: Jazzistry in Schools

VSA arts of Michigan- artsJAM

Washtenaw County Children's Services Department- Teen Center Without Walls-Festival of Youth Arts

Wild Swan Theater- Professional Theater for

HEALTHCARE

Ann Arbor Center of Living- Cycling for All Abilities Ann Arbor YMCA- Pfizer Youth and Teen Get Fit Club

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw- Medicare Prescription Drug Law Assistance



Chelsea Area Transportation System, Inc.- Health Care Access: A Holistic Approach to Health

Domestic Violence Project, Inc. - SafeHouse Primary Care Clinic

Food Gatherers- Project Protein: Improving the Health and Nutrition of Washtenaw County's Most Vulnerable People

Growing Hope- Home-Grown Health

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PFIZER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A \$1,000 Pfizer Volunteer Program grant is given to nonprofit organizations in honor of Pfizer colleagues who volunteer at least 72 hours per year. In 2005, over 50 colleagues earned \$1,000 grants for 46 non-profit organizations.

HelpSource- Healthy Young Moms

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Alive:

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Fit Club

Hope Medical Clinic, Inc. - Hope Dental Clinic

Hospice of Michigan-Patient Care-Open Access Commitment Program

Judson Center- Hands on Prevention

Packard Community Clinic- Health Education and Counseling Services

Regents of the University of Michigan—Division of Child Behavioral Health; University of Michigan Development and Behavioral Pediatrics— Enhancing Community Connections



Shelter Association of Washtenaw County- Shelter Association Health Clinic

The Corner Health Center- The Corner Theatre Troupe

The Women's Center of America-Personal Counseling Program: Access to Mental Health

University of Michigan- Ann Arbor Healthy Schools

Washtenaw Health Plan Corporation—Durable Medical Equipment (DME) & medical supplies for low-income, uninsured WHP enrollees



SCIENCE EDUCATION

Ann Arbor Hands-On-Museum-Public Programs

Leslie Science Center- Integrating Science: Building Connections Between Classroom Learning and Outdoor Study

Michigan Society for Medical Research- Middle and High School Essay Contest

The New Detroit Science Center- Making Math Meaningful Roll-out

The University of Michigan Women in Science and Engineering Program—Southeast Michigan Science Fair

University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History-Family Reading and Science

University of Michigan School of Nursing- GRO Coleman-Burns Application

CIVIC

Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce- Strategic Alliance Partnership Program

Ann Arbor Police Department- Safety Town

Citizens Research Council of Michigan-Nonpartisan Research in Michigan

City of Ann Arbor- Parks and Recreation- Huron River Day

Detroit Regional Chamber- Michigan Technology Conference

Huron River Watershed Council—Business Partnership Miller Creek Project



Michigan Legal Services- 2006 Cover the Uninsured Week

NEW Center- Board Connect

SPARK/MichBio- Michigan Innovation Equipment Depot

Youth Empowerment Project-Leap the Gap Project

Washtenaw United Way- Annual Campaign

Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation— General





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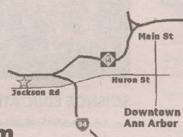
Friday Dec 1: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday Dec 2: 10 am - 5 pm Sunday Dec 3: 11 am - 4 pm

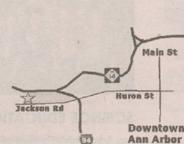
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Moves

Cayman Sports Company lost its lease when developer Bill Conlin bought its building, which he plans to demolish for his Shops at Arlington shopping center. But Cayman owner Nelson Chen says he landed somewhere even better: right next to the One on One Athletic Club on Boardwalk. The tennis shop is now twice the size, which means broader and deeper inventory, and its strategic location means that One on One's 2,400-some membersmany of them enthusiastic tennis players-will walk right past the shop every time they come to work out.

Cayman Sports Company, 2853 Boardwalk Drive, 971-7838. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Sun.

Leonardo's Pizza is moving from its original location on East Ann to the former SakeBombs Depot spot on Packard near State. The eatery, which serves killer pizzas, subs, chipatis, Italian dishes, shakes, and deli sandwiches, opened in 1997 as

Leonardo's Pizza, 709 Packard, 994-1111. Probable hours: Mon.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 a.m., Sun. noon-1 a.m.

sasasa

Cingular Wireless has moved from Main and Madison to a new spot in the McKinley Towne Centre development on Liberty. Jointly owned by AT&T and Bell-South, Cingular offers the largest wireless network in the United States, with over 58 million subscribers nationwide.

Cingular Wireless, 407 East Liberty (McKinley Towne Centre), 669-8079. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Toys with Noise has relocated from its original spot on Stadium, where Custom Sound used to be, to Jackson Road next to Dunning Toyota. Owner Shannon Shahan, who once worked at Custom Sound and now has two stores of his own, including one in Brighton, sells mobile electronics: sound systems, video systems, and iPod integration. The shop also offers toys that don't make noise, including GPS navigation equipment, remote starters, custom tires and wheels, and heated seats.

Toys with Noise, 3685 Jackson Road, 663-4100. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sun.

Closings

Samantha Misiak has traded in her Lady of the Lamp boutique in Kerrytown ny lost its nlin bought o demolish ping center. hen says he right next c Club on now twice and deeper ation means membersennis play-

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6 p.m., Sat.

for a new role as the manager of the Sunday Artisan Market. She'll be handling advertising and promotions as well as working on adding more artists to the open-air event, which takes over the Farmers' Market Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., April to Christmas. "It sounds like a lot," she says, "but I feel like I'm a leg up, since I was able to develop strong relationships with many of the artists during the two years that I had my shop." Misiak continues to teach lampshade-making classes through Hollander's, but she's taking a break from crafting her distinctive "newd" (made from both new and used materials) lamps to focus on running the market.

202020

Chris Hardy says he and his partners have closed their Nickels Arcade smoothie shop, FCB House of Flavors, because "staying stationary just isn't our style." The group is working on opening a mobile smoothie stand on campus.

202020

After suffering a series of health problems, Sukhdial and Ravinder Singh have closed their downtown Indian restaurant, Shehan-Shah, and made plans for an extended trip to India. Singh says he'll reevaluate whether or not to reopeneither in the same location or elsewherewhen they return in the spring.

202020

Fans of Mac & Oliver's addictive chocolate peanut butter caramel corn have only a few days left to score. The Briarwood candy and ice cream shop is closing at the end of November while owner Patrick Slater looks for a new, nonmall location. "Malls are meant for name-brand stores . . . that have large budgets and can stand slow days in sales," he wrote in a recent e-mail.

Slater is looking in Saline for a new location, in part because he thinks Saline needs an ice cream parlor (Mickey's Dairy Twist is open only seasonally), and also because his wife, Anh, is a pharmacist there. If he can find the right spot, he hopes to open an ice cream, candy, and coffee shop with an adjacent restaurant sometime next spring.

The Golden Chef Chinese restaurant in Maple Village closed following a devastating kitchen fire that blazed out of control one early November morning and gutted the building. Fire marshal Ron Heemstra traced the conflagration to a wok that was left on. Maple Village owners New Plan Realty Trust weren't able to say what will happen to the building, which is boarded up and decorated with elaborate graffiti.

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, Marketplace Changes featured nine new businesses. All but one are now closed; the lone survivor is Benny's Family Dining. A decade ago, Benny's was called Abe's Coney Island and had a different owner, but the South Industrial eatery still serves much the same menu of traditional fare, Broasted chicken, and diner-style breakfasts.

The Cinnabon concession inside the Plymouth Road Kroger didn't last a year. Neither did Rebecca Berman's Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio in the Market Place Building; a used-clothing store on Jackson Road called Repeat Performance; or Connie Basil's last retail location, the Art Deco Design Studio, near the Farmers' Market. The other casualties are Brewbakers bakery and brewery in Kerrytown, the Dixboro Dulcimer Store on Plymouth Road, convenience store Main Mart in the Pratt Block, and Ann Arbor Flowers and Garden Center on

December 1996 survival rate: 11 per-

satata

Five years ago this month, this column reported twelve retail and restaurant openings. Half of those businesses have since closed: City Bakery & Cafe II in the Hamilton Square minimall on North University; Main Street Coney & Grill, where Indian restaurant Chennai Vilas is now; and Briarwood shops OTD, Just Sports, the Discovery Channel Store, and Soup's On Cafe.

Briarwood boutiques Chico's and Journeys are still around. So is Happy Wok, on West Stadium. Women's clothier Mathilde's Imports not only is open but has since moved from the Market Place Building to a larger spot in Kerrytown. Twiggy Boutique, on East Liberty, has survived and thrived under its new name, Poshh. Sushi.come on North University has gained a new owner and doubled its original size.

December 2001 survival rate: 50 per-

One year ago this month, we told you about seven new businesses. Only one of them didn't survive 2006: Ann Arbor Fireplace & BBQ, on West Stadium where Julie's Music is now. The first anniversary celebrants are Silvio's Organic Pizza and Beanie June Boutique, both on North University; children's play space Fantasy Forest in Glencoe Crossing on Washtenaw; Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches in Traver Village; southwest Asian art gallery Ionnia in the Nickels Arcade; and Mary Campbell's Everyday Cook in Kerrytown, which debuted on a modest scale and is soon to complete construction on an ambitious in-store kitchen

December 2005 survival rate: 86 per-

-Laura McReynolds

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send e-mail to lauramcreynolds@tds.net or leave voice mail at 769-3175, extension 364.



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128th UMS SEASON 2006 2007

Handel's Messiah

UMS Choral Union Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Jerry Blackstone conductor SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 8 PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2 PM Hill Auditorium

The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union launches the holiday season with its signature work, Handel's glorious oratorio, Messiah. An Ann Arbor-area tradition in the beautiful surroundings of Hill Auditorium, these performances are ultimately the heart of UMS, connecting audiences with the talented musicians on stage as well as with friends and family who attend each year.

Supported by Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund.

Media Partner Michigan Radio.

Michigan Chamber Players

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 4 PM Rackham Auditorium

Each year, the University Musical Society hosts the Michigan Chamber Players, comprised of faculty artists at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. This free concert will feature Yehonatan Berick (violin), Deborah Chodacki (clarinet), Anthony Elliot (cello), Christopher Harding (piano), Caroline Helton (soprano), Martin Katz (piano), Carmen Pelton (soprano), Fred Ormand (clarinet), and Amy Porter (flute).

PROGRAM Schubert Frank Martin Ravel Oliver Messiaen

Totus in corde langueo, D. 136 Trois chants de noël Chansons madécasses Quartet for the end of time

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This is the date of a truly unique Holiday concert where two of the finest male voice choirs in the nation will be singing a joint concert for your pleasure.

The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club



and Measure for Measure - A Men's Choral Society



will be together on the same stage for the first time. Imagine the wonderful sounds of over 150 men on stage at the same time singing the Ave Maria by Biebl. Think about what this will do to encourage everyone to "Sing for a Lifetime."



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Tickets: Adults: \$18 Seniors: \$14 Students/Children under 12: \$7 Call the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center Ticket Office for Tickets at 734.487.2282 or log on to www.emich.edu and click "Purchase Tickets". Call Measure for Measure for group rate information at 734.649.7664. Visit us at www.measure4measure.org

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We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor,

Michigan 48104. By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at arborweb: www.arborweb. com. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

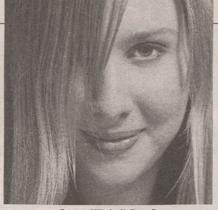
1 FRIDAY

★"Friday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Friday. Slow/ moderate-paced ride, 34-45 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, Munith, Stockbridge, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. 9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851-8323 & (517) 285-6830.

★19th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. December 1-3. This popular community celebration, formerly known as the Festival of Lights, features a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Tonight's special events are highlighted by a tree lighting (6 p.m., Pierce Park). Santa opens his workshop, where children can participate in crafts while waiting to share their Christmas wishes (6:30-8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot) and a living Nativity complete with live animals (7-8 p.m., Cole Funeral Home). Also: "Make-and-Take Birdseed Ornament" (9 a.m.-5 p.m., Gigi's Flowers), "Open House Community Celebration" (McKune Memorial Library, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.), "Create Your Own Angel" craft activity (noon–4:30 p.m., Uptown Antiques), "Antique Music Box Concert" (2-3 p.m., The Chelsea Collection), "Cookie Decorating for Children" (6-9 p.m., First Congregational Church), storytelling (6:45-9 p.m., Chelsea Depot), hayrides (7–9 p.m., First Congregational Church), and self-styled "funktified folk" by singer-songwriter and guitarist **Dan Vaillancourt** (8–11 p.m., Zou Zou's). 9 a.m.–11 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.

*"Gender and Security: Bridging the Gulf Between Theory and Practice": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. U-M and visiting scholars give talks on the role of gender in nuclear proliferation policies, politics, and peacemaking. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State.

December Events





Sonva Kitchell, Dec. 1

Ralph Covert, Dec. 9

GALLERIES

Exhibit Openings

Laura Bien

Gallery Review

Michael Kenna's Rouge photographs

Laura Bien

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

Nightspots Schedule

John Hinchey

Nightspots Review Whit Hill and the Postcards

Charmie Gholson

EVENTS REVIEWS

Mary Gaitskill After the end

Keith Taylor

Small Potatoes Careful indecision

James M. Manheim

Tye Tribbett and G.A.

Gospel's forward edge James M. Manheim

Being There

Zen garden

Dan Moray

St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols

The real meaning of Christmas

James Leonard

Kitty Donohoe

Michigan road warrior

Whit Hill

Events at a Glance 128

John Berry, Dec. 7

Lynn Miles, Dec. 16





"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6. 997-1553.

★Santa Visit: Briarwood Mall. December 1-24. Kids can visit Santa as parents take photos. Also, a chance for pets to visit with Santa (Dec. 10, 3–6 p.m. & Dec. 17, 4–7 p.m.). 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Dec. 1–16 & 18-23), 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (Dec. 17), and 9 a.m.-5 (Dec. 24), Briarwood center court. Free. 769-9610.

*24th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 1-4. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from 111 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatri-cian who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century presepio (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 10 woodand-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes over 1,500 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 15-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and hand-made Nativity balls. There are also "walk-in" rooms, which include Latin American, African, Eastern European, Asian, and American creches, as well as a room of spinning light-mill Nativities and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. One of the most striking dis-plays is a large French Santon village featuring over 100 Santons (minisaints) carrying gifts to the manger. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals, and styles range from simple childlike figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the breakable Lladro, Lennox, and Hummel creches, as well as one from Singapore and a stage with 7 large Nativity marionettes from the Czech Republic. The creches range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to an African Nativity portraying Joseph as a 25½" tall Masai warrior. Also, at 7:30 p.m. tonight only, a Christmas concert features vocal and instrumental music by performers TBA. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 663-3699.

*Lecture Series: U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. December 1 & 8. Talks by U-M scholars. Today: U-M Near Eastern Studies grad student Patrick Morgan discusses "Mouths, Doors, Vaginas, and Other Dangerous Places in Mesopotamian Erotic Magic." Also this month: U-M romance languages and literatures grad student Jarrod Hayes on "Marginal Sexualities in North Africa" (December 8). 11 a.m.—noon, G333 Mason Hall, 419 S. State. Free. 764—0350.

★"Muslim Communities in Cambodia": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Talk by Oberlin College religion professor Anna Gade. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

"Mission or Mitzvah: Jewish Women's Welfare Work, 1881-1931": U-M Center for Judaic Studies. Talk by Strathclyde Center in Gender Studies (Glasgow) director Eileen Yeo. Noon, 2022 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763-9047.

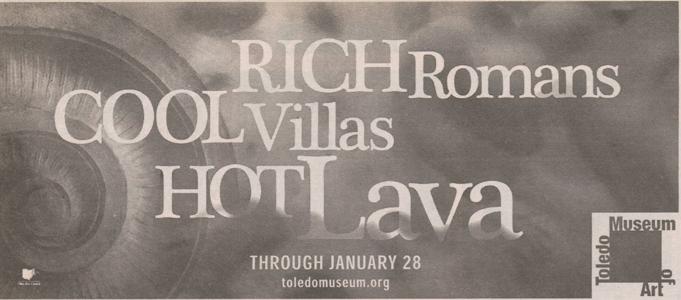
**Out of Control: AIDS in Black America": World AIDS Week. Screening of this ABC News documentary about the impact of HIV/AIDS on women, especially women of color. Followed by discussion. Noon, Michigan Union Parker Room. Free. (248) 225-0426.

★Ben Taylor and Sonya Kitchell: Liberty Borders. Performance by these 2 singer-songwriters who are at the Ark tonight (see listing below). Also, signing. 12:30 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free.

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Monday (except December 25) & Friday. All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Friday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. 1–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

★"Evolution and Human Adaptation": U-M Department of Anthropology. December 1 & 8. Talks by visiting scholars. Today: Rutgers University anthropology professor Ryne Palombit discusses



concordia university arts ann arbor, michigan



29th Annual Boar's Head Festival



Concordia Jazz Ensemble and Urban Transport



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December 2006 Events

29th Annual Boar's Head Festival

Friday, Dec. 1 • 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3 • 4 p.m.

Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Tickets: \$8-15

Call 734.995.4612 to purchase tickets.

Students, faculty and staff come together to enact medieval Christmas traditions and the story of Christ's birth in this moving musical spectacle directed by Dr. Laura C. Bird with musical direction by Brian Altevogt. Beginning in 1978 through the vision of three Concordia professors—Paul Foelber, John Sturmfels and Quentin Marino-the Boar's Head Festival has become a treasured memory for many. It remains a vibrant and living tradition as it continues to profess the wonder of the Christmas miracle.

Concordia Jazz Ensemble and Urban Transport

Friday, December 8 • 7:30 p.m.

Black Box Theatre

Tickets: \$4-10

Call 734.995.4612 to purchase tickets.

The Concordia University Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Sean Dobbins, joins forces with the modern jazz quintet, Urban Transport, for what promises to be an incredible evening of live jazz. Since its formation over four years ago, Urban Transport has built a reputation as one of the most exciting groups to hear in the Detroit jazz scene. Their sound is described as "hard-driving traditional modern jazz with an edge" (Piotr Michalowski, Ann Arbor Observer Nov. 2005) with an unusual frontline of trombone and alto sax. The groups repertoire consists of more than fifty original compositions inspired by bebop, swing, modal jazz, Afro-Cuban, Latin, smooth jazz and R&B and features trombonist Vincent Chandler, drummer Sean Dobbins, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, bassist Josef Deas and pianist Rick Roe. Individually, the members have performed with such artists and groups as Joe Henderson, The Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Dave Liebman, The Mingus Big Band, Benny Golson, and Frank Morgan.

"Friendship and Conflict Between the Sexes in Chacma and Olive Baboons." Also this month: Emory University anthropology postdoc fellow Sarah Brosnan on "Fairness and Prosocial Behavior in Nonhuman Primates" (December 8). 1 p.m., 4448 East Hall, 530 Church. Free. 764–7274.

*Smith Lecture Series: U-M Geology Department. December 1 & 8. Talks by visiting professors Today: Southern Methodist University Institute for the Study of Earth and Man president Louis Jacobs discusses "Fossil Invertebrates of Angola." Also this month: University of Bristol (England) seismology professor Michael Kendall on "Mantle Upwellings, Melt Migration, and the Rifting of Africa: Insights from Seismic Anisotropy" (December 8). 4 p.m., 1528 C. C. Little, 1100 North University. Free. 764–1435.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. Juried show of works by over 135 crafters from around the Midwest. Also, gingerbread house display and silent auction, gingerbread cookie decorating (5–9 p.m.), a cookie walk, and screenings of *The Polar Express* (6 & 8 p.m.), Robert Zemeckis's 2004 animated film adaptation of Chris Van Allsburg's story about a little boy who desperately wants to believe in Santa. Child care available until 9 p.m. for kids ages 6 months-8 years, Concessions, 5–11 p.m., Saline Schools Central Campus, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. \$2 (children 10 & younger, free). 429–8020.

"A Closer Walk": World AIDS Week. Screening of Robert Bilheimer's 2002 documentary that characterizes AIDS as history's worst plague. Dinner & dessert served. Raffle. 6–9 p.m., Trotter Multicultural Center, 1443 Washtenaw. \$6 donation. (248) 225-0426.

"Midnight Madness": Kerrytown Shops/Main Street Area Association/South University Area Association. Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Kerrytown also features caroling, 6-9 p.m. For more on Main Street activities, see "Festive Friday" listing below. 6 p.m.-midnight, Kerrytown Shops and Main Street & South University shopping areas. Free admission. 662-5008.

★Silent Meditation: Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Every Friday. All invited to sit in silent meditation. 7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration requested. 945-8602.

*"Festive Friday": Main Street Area Association. Every Friday through December 22. Local entertainers stroll the Main Street sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Tonight's entertainment includes Victorian caroling by the Arbor Consort, along with juggler Tim Salisbury, the U-M Jazz Guitar Duo, agpiper Herm Steinman, and Elvis impersonator Chris Solano. Also this month: the Pioneer vocal ensemble the Loreleis (Dec. 8). In Kerrytown: live caroling (6–9 p.m.). 7–9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free.

*"Adult Dance Show": Ann Arbor Community Recreation and Education. Adult Rec & Ed dance students perform belly dance, ballet, hip-hop, and ballroom dance. 7 p.m., Forsythe Middle School room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free. 994-2300 ext. 53234.

7 p.n Dr. F.

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★Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History. All invited to gather with Lavonne and Ron Harris at an 1877 Steinway grand piano in this historic home before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols, with accompaniment by the Salva tion Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider, cookies, and festive music by accordionist Christian Roux. Also, a chance to tour the Kempf House to view 19th-century Christmas decorations. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.

*Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by Greg Schutz and poetry by Anya Cobler. 7 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 615-3710.

★"Day Without Art Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. Indie acoustic pop-folk by the local duo of singer-songwriters Chris Bathgate & Matt Jones. Opening act is Liz Isenberg, an indie acoustic pop-folk singer-songwriter from Amherst, Massachusetts. In conjunction with "Day Without Art," which memorializes the impact AIDS has had on artists and performers. 7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free.

*Anne Gross & Thomas Bandy: Northside Community Church. Advent and Christmas music recital soprano Gross and piano accompanist Bandy, both U-M music grad students. The program includes works by John Adams, Hugo Wolf, Joaquin Nin, Gabriel Faure, and others. Donations accepted to

he Sexes in this month: fellow Sarah Behavior in

ogy Departg professors. Institute for Louis Jacobs ngola." Also Mantle Up-Rifting of tropy" (De-

Show. Juried m around the ay and silent (5–9 p.m.), a olar Express nimated film Santa, Child 6 months-8 Schools Cen-r-Saline Rd., 429-8020.

Screening of e. Dinner & Multicultural tion. (248)

Shops/Main tonight with caroling, 6-9 see "Festive t, Kerrytown sity shopping

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Community & Ed dance hip-hop, and iddle School inset. Free.

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English De-

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thside Commusic recital t Bandy, both am includes Joaquin Nin, accepted to

th Ave. Free.

Michael Kenna's Rouge photographs

Industrial poetry

Big things are happening in the little, lightly trafficked UMMA refuge at South U and Forest. After the mesmerizing Barsamian exhibit of whirling modern zoetrope contraptions and the enchanting and mournful Plains of Sweet Regret video installation, the UMMA is mounting what promises to be its third outstanding exhibit in a row, a blockbuster show of English photographer Michael Kenna's exquisite black-and-white photos of the Ford Rouge complex.

Three of the Kenna Rouge photos in the UMMA's collection were standout works in the summer 2001 exhibit Albert Kahn: Inspiration for the Modern. This time, the visitor can see no fewer than ninety. Taken in the early 1990s and printed by a silver-gelatin process that renders the works pearly and starkly chiaroscuric, the brooding, poetic photos transform a dirty, utilitarian industrial site into meditations on the unlikely beauty of smokestacks and slag piles.

The Rouge, Study #7 (right) shows a curv-

ing chimney complex silhouetted among climbing drifts of mysteriously illuminated white cloud. A stain of inky smoke rises against pale mist. The precise outlines of the

metal structure, surrounded and dwarfed by the luminous vapor, render the hulking machinery into a toylike shape in a floating-cloud world.

The factory is also dwarfed by natural phenomena in Study #18. Resembling a mountain range, a dark gray ridge of dirt or coal looms up through the bottom two-thirds of the photo. Beyond it, an array of Rouge chimneys exudes insubstantial wisps of white smoke, and seems in danger of burial by the hulk-

ing pile, as if the glacierlike coal were burying and erasing the structures.

Study #88 offers a similar contrast between the artificial and the natural. The work looks up from the base of two large chimneys extending into opaque gray sky. Above the massive columns, thin and faint white curves of star tracks appear from what must be a time-lapse photo. These unassuming marks quietly raise questions about the permanence of the monumental

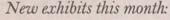
An infernal nighttime city of towers, chutes, and railroads appears in Study #96. Mist and smoke again fill the view, blurring lights and suffusing the imposing square structures in mystery and dreamy unreality.

At this place devoted to motion and noise, a parked rail car in the photo adds to the feeling of poised stillness

An enormous black scoop, parked crookedly in the foreground of Study #5 against a background of crane arms indistinct in a fog, suggests, despite its massive and clumsy bulk, a lyre strung with nine cables. The scoop-lyre offers a succinct metaphorical representation of how Kenna's photos of the Rouge tease from this utilitarian factory a dark and powerful visual music of mystery, grace, and foreboding.

The photographs are on display at the U-M Museum of Art Off/Site December 2 through January 14.

-Laura Bien



EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, East Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall. Graduate Thesis Exhibitions: Tim Gralewski (December 4-8), Richard Lappin (December 11-15), and Hsiao-Ting (December 18-22). 487-1268.

The Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. Guest Exhibition (December 5-January 6). Reception 7 Thursday, 6-9 p.m. 997-7012.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. The Forgotten Photographs: A Retrospective on the State of Israel (December 1-February 28). 971-0990.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue. Iron Flowers by Michael Wolfe; Abstract Oil Paintings and Drawings by Nancy Wolfe (December 1–31). Reception 6 Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. 769-2999.

Museum on Main Street, 500 North Main. Christmas Lights, Ornaments, and Trees (December 2–January 17). 662–0696.

U-M Art and Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel. Sculpture and Rice Paper Paintings by Tuan Tran (December 1-January 31). 763-4417

U-M Museum of Art Off/Site, 1301 South University. The Rouge: Photographs by

Michael Kenna (December 2-January 14). See review, above. 763-UMMA.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. From Papyri to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible (December 1-February 3).

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art), Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel. Bodies at (un)Rest (December 1-22). Reception 1 Friday, 6-9 p.m. 764-0397.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2006-2007 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

benefit the Washtenaw County Shelter Association. 7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Notre Dame. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. WMU. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$12–\$17. 764–0247.

29th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. December 1–3. Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of van-quished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. 7:30 P.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Triniby, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$15 (ages 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995-7300.

Shadow Art Fair: Michigan Design Militia. December 1 & 2. Show and sale of glass jewelry, photographs, paintings, handmade bags and scarves, mixed media artworks, clothing, greeting cards, and more, made by over 30 local artists. Tonight only: live music by local singer-songwriters Patrick Elkins, Gregory Macintosh, and Timothy Monger and readings by Found magazine editor Davy Rothbart. Davy's brother Peter Rothbart also sings songs he has

fashioned from his brother's finds. 8 p.m.midnight (Dec. 1), 11 a.m.–8 p.m. (Dec. 2), Corner Brewery, 720 Norris at Forest (west of River St. north of E. Cross), Ypsilanti. Free admission. 516–1432.

Ben Taylor and Sonya Kitchell: The Ark. Double bill. The son of James Taylor and Carly Simon, Taylor is a young pop-folk singer-songwriter with a laid-back, introspectively romantic style that's strongly reminiscent of his father's youthful work. He recently released his debut CD, Another Run Around the Sun. Kitchell is a 17-year old sultry-voiced jazz-pop singer-songwriter who has been compared to everysinger-songwriter who has been compared to every-one from Joni Mitchell to Natalie Merchant and No-rah Jones. "Sonya is a young fireball with raw talent and great spirit," says Madeleine Peyroux. Opening act is **David Saw**, a young acoustic pop-folk singer-songwriter from London, England. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$16 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story" & "The Story of Krumplestiltskin": Dreamland Theater. December 1-3. Double bill. Chemical Traces is an original marionette musical by puppeteer Naia Venturi and writer-composer Jess Rowland, a delightfully acidic yet sweetly sentimental comedy about love in the modern world. The action concerns the triad of Bob, an up-and-coming unabomber, the scheming has-been unabomber Renaldo, and the pert scheming has-been unabomber Renatoo, and the pert yet disgruntled postal employee Emily. Features a guest appearance by a startlingly lifelike version of Ted Koppel's hair. Also, Dreamland Theater puppeteer Naia Venturi directs *Krumplestiltskin*, a madlib marionette show for kids. It's a mash-up of traditional fairy tales in which audience members help create the story by filling in blanks in the script before the show 8 nm. Dreamland Theater 44 F. fore the show. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E.

Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5. 657-2337.

*"Merchant of Venice": Greenhills School. December 1 & 2. Benjamin Cohen directs Greenhills high school students in Shakespeare's controversial tragicomedy about passion and revenge centered on the character of the moneylender Shylock, who is both a villain-demanding a literal pound of flesh from a delinquent debtor—and a victim of anti-Semitism. 8 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free.

"Sleeping Beauty": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform EMU dance professor Sherry Jerome's 90-minute abridgement and adaptation of this 1890 ballet by Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa. The score is performed live by the EMU Symphony Orchestra. An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute children's concerts (reservations required at 487-2448). 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 12, \$6) in advance and at the door.

"The Great American Egg Nog Festival": Blackbird Theater. November 30 and December 1, 2, & 7–9. An irreverent holiday variety show that includes a one-act play and live music and comedy. Ahmed Muslimani directs The Santaland Diaries, David Sedaris's dark, vinegary, outrageously funny mono-logue, starring Will Myers as a jaundiced, snippy elf in a department store Santaland display. Also, "Santa's Celebrity Roast" features a potpourri of live music and comedy by Blackbird Theater company members. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$18 (seniors, \$12; students, \$8) in advance and at the door. 332–3848.

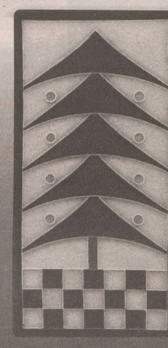




Exhibits, studio tours and tile demonstrations. Make a tile from 11 to 4. Field tile overruns \$3/lb.

One day only!





Regular Hours:

Mon-Fri ...10am-5pm Sat ...10am-3pm

Holiday Hours:

After Nov 24 we are open until 7pm on Thursdays and 5pm on Saturdays. Closed Dec 24–Jan 1.

170 Enterprise Drive (intersects Jackson Rd. just east of Baker) Phone 734.213.0017 www.motawi.com





December 2006 EVENTS Ann Arbor District Library



Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am

Charlotte's Web Celebration • Age 6 & up Pittsfield Branch



Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Sunday

Charlotte's Web Celebration • Age 6 & up Northeast Branch



2:00 - 3:30 pm Wednesday

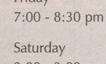
German Family Cultural Celebration • Families of all ages Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Friday

7:00 - 8:30 pm

The Fantasticks! Director Carla Milarch and Performance Network Company members discuss and sing excerpts from the award-winning musical • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

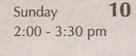


Animanga Club: Fullmetal Alchemist • Grades 6 - 12 Malletts Creek Branch

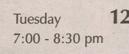


2:00 - 3:00 pm

Classical Bells Concert Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Sunday Edition Author Series: Historian Grace Shackman discusses her book Ann Arbor Observed: Selections from



Then and Now • Pittsfield Branch Concert & Film: Blue Dahlia presents an original film score to the Buster Keaton silent comedy classic The General



Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm The House That Genghis Built: Mary Underwood discusses her travels and experiences in Mongolia Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Saturday Noon - 5:00 pm **AADL-GT Super Smash Double Dash Grand Championship** Grades 6 - 12 • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Sunday 17 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Dance Dance Revolution for All Ages Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



26 Tuesday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Pokémania Tournament Series • Age 6 & up Tournament continues Dec. 27, 28 & 29, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00 pm Yarn Pictures • Age 8 & up Northeast Branch



26 Tuesday 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Open Play & DS Fest for Teens • Grade 6 & up Open Play & DS Fest continues Dec. 27 & 28, 5:00 - 8:00 pm Downtown Multi-Purpose Room



Wednesday 27 10:00 - 10:30 am

Wednesday

Silly Stories • Age 2 & up Downtown Library Youth Story Corner



2:00 - 4:00 pm 28 Thursday-

Malletts Creek Branch

Hexabits • Age 6 & up

2:00 - 4:00 pm Friday 10:00 am - Noon Happy New Year! Make It & Take It Craft • Age 3 & up Northeast Branch

Happy New Year! Make It & Take It Craft • Age 3 & up Pittsfield Branch

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. November 30-December 3. Brad Rondeau directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in his adaptation of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-known comic operettas, set in 1947 in the postwar era of Hollywood glamour and featuring randy sailors and high-spirited dames. Aboard the Pinafore the captain's daughter moons for a poor but honest sailor. Her father won't abide a marriage with a common deckhand, but in time, through a series of absurd plot twists that tweak class barriers, the two lovers predictably find bliss. The score contains many of Sullivan's most memorable works, among them "We Sail the Ocean Blue" and "I'm Called Lit-tle Buttercup." Cast includes Becky Nathanson, Jeffrey Speaks, Andrew Coniglio, Erica Ruff, and Lori Gould. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$16 & \$22 (seniors, \$10 & \$15; students, \$13 & \$18) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

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★"Mnemonic": U-M Basement Arts Theater. November 30-December 2. Stephen Sposito directs Simon McBurney's acclaimed meditation on the role of memory that seamlessly weaves together the stories of a 5,500-year-old Ice Man, an abandoned lover, and a woman searching for the father she never knew. Evening time TBA, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–6800.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. Wednesday-Sunday (except December 24 & 29–31) through January 20, and December 19 & 26. Guy Sanville directs Jeff Daniels's new comedy, a prequel to his hugely successful Yooper deer-hunting comedy Escanaba in da Moonlight. Set in a some-what seedy deer camp on the eve of WW II, the story concerns Soady family patriarch Albert and the love of his young life, the legendary Big Betty Baloo. Note: Many December dates are sold out; call ahead for availability. Cast: Paul Hopper, Wayne David Parker, Inga Wilson, Will David Young, and Jake Christensen. 8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$12.50 (Tues.), \$25 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), \$35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.). Tickets available in advance and at the door. 433–7673.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. Every Thursday (except November 23) through Sunday, November 9-December 31. Carla Milarch directs Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's bewitching 1960 musical comedy, a simple fable, whimsical and bittersweet, about young lovers coming of age that enjoyed a 42-year run on Broadway. The show's many memorable tunes include "Try to Remember," "Plant a Radish," "Soon It's Gonna Rain," and "They Were You." Stars Scott Crownover, Jason Richards, Andriana Pachella, and Charlie Sutherland, with Glen Bugala, B. J. Love, Aaron Moore, Kevin Young, and Ryan MacLean. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$24.50 (Thurs. & Sun.), \$29.50 (Fri.), and \$34.50 (Sat.). Discounts available for seniors & (during previews) adults under age 30. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. Every Friday except December 29 (note new location). Local comics invent scenes based on stories told by audience members. Alcohol is served. 8-9:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. \$10. 214-7080.

Dave Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Noember 30 and December 1 & 2. This polished Grand Rapids comic is known for his unexpected takes on everything from marriage and raising kids to current events and even ear hair. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are non-smoking shows. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the

Chocolate and Dessert Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. A chance to sample chocolate desserts whipped up by Paesano's chef Isabella Nicoletti with chocolates from the local Schakolad chocolate factory, along with some of Paesano's finest dessert wines 9-11 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. \$30 in advance only. 971-0484.

"Swing & Blues Dance Party": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Every Friday. Dance to swing, jazz, blues, and groove music spun by a DJ. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution Dance Studio, 603 E. William. \$5 (students with ID, \$3).

The Javon Jackson Superband: Firefly Club. Jazz quartet led by saxophonist Jackson, a former member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers whose eclectic Sullivan So-Rondeau diown compa in the postbut honest with a com-series of ab-ers, the two Called Lithanson, Jefiff, and Lori er, Michigan & \$15; stu-higan Union

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Mary Gaitskill After the end

In the 1980s Mary Gaitskill exploded into the reading world with Bad Behavior, a collection of short stories that shocked and challenged what was left of complacent baby-boomer assumptions about our generation's social experiments. The parties had become desperate and alcoholic, the playful drug use had turned into addiction, and free love had become sadomasochism or the pathway to a deadly disease. Yet what was most troubling about these stories was the dark allure of their world.

In Gaitskill's recent novel Veronica, the title character laments to the narrator, after overhearing a casual comment at a showing of Robert Mapplethorpe photographs, Everything we did is being erased. They're denying it all. They're taking it all away." It is one of many moments in the book where cultural loss seems personally overwhelming. The novel is about the sad end of something, but it's also about what comes after the end, and that is a new thing in Gaitskill's fiction.

To tell this story, Gaitskill has found a way to jump back and forth in time, as easily as if sifting through a photo album. There is no jarring when Gaitskill summarizes four decades of attitude—"For a while, 'we' were loving; then we were alienated and angry, then ironic, then depressed. Although we are at war with terror, fashion magazines say we are sunny now. We wear bright colors and choose moral clarity"—because her characters have embodied all those changes.

Alison Owen, the narrator of Veronica, is a troubled runaway, who left home both because she hated it and because it was the thing to do. She stumbles through the fashionable cities of her era, starting with selling flowers in front of strip joints in San Francisco. She becomes a temp worker in New York, an exploited fashion model in Paris,



and a nameless actress in music videos in L.A. She revels in the flashy beauty of the moment, defining herself and everyone she meets by its lavishly ephemeral standards. She has a string of lovers who treat her with various degrees of kindness or disdain, but she also eventually befriends Veronica, an older woman, dying of AIDS, who is abrasive, worn, and belligerently unfashionable. That improbable friendship becomes re-

I sank down into darkness and lived among demons for a long, long time. I became one of them. . . . I was saved by another demon, who looked on me with pity and so became human again. And because I pitied her in turn, I was allowed to become human, too.

Coming after a clear-eyed tour of the alluring decadence that captivated so many of us, this movement toward a new understanding of what we will have to call "love" has made Mary Gaitskill one of the more interesting writers of our time. She returns to Ann Arbor to read from Veronica and other work in the U-M Visiting Writers Series at Residential College Auditorium on Thursday, December 7.

-Keith Taylor

repertoire ranges from Egberto Gismonti to Charles Mingus to Muddy Waters to Frank Zappa. "Saxo-phonist Javon Jackson plays funk with a slow hand. [He] doesn't beat matters to a froth but allows them to come to fruition in their own time, [an] approach to groove [that] calls for clear arrangements that focus the senses nicely," says *Philadelphia Inquirer* critic Karl Stark in his review of Jackson's acclaimed 2005 CD Easy Does It. With pianist George Cables, drummer Jimmy Cobb, and bassist Rodney Whitlock. 9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$25 at the door only. 665–9090.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Old Joy" (Kelly Reichardt, 2006). December 1, 3, & 4. When two old friends meet for a camping trip, they find out how much their lives have changed. Will Oldham, Daniel London, Tanya Smith. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). December 1–7. Three actors learn that their performances in a film called *Home for Purim*, set in the 40s South, may be up for an Oscar. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

2 SATURDAY

"Winter Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the Park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. 8~a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Ter-ritorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: \$4/day, \$20/year (\$12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.

★19th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 1 Friday. Today's

highlights include breakfast with Santa (8:30–10 a.m., Chelsea Village Conference Center), a walking tour of historic buildings (1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m., First Congregational Church), and a downtown light parade (6 p.m.). The parade is followed by a festive party (7–9 p.m., Chelsea Teddy Bear Factory) with community sing led by the vocal ensemble Counterpoint and a preview of Youth Dance Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* (see 8 December listing). Also, "Open House Community Celebration" (McKune Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.), a performance by the Golden Griffon Stringtet (10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Pierce's Pastries Plus), a Gingerbread House Workshop (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Clocktower Complex Chelsea Commons), a luminaria display (6-8 p.m., Main Street), and R&B and blues saxophonist Ed Sugar (8-11 p.m., Zou Zou's). 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

Christmas Bazaar: St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Show and sale of centerpieces, trees, wreaths, ornaments, and other holiday items. Kids activities, bake sale. Breakfast and lunch available. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Luke's, 120 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free admission.

Annual Bazaar: Bethel AME Church. Show and sale of baked goods, arts and crafts, games, toys, and new and gently used items. Lunch available. 9 a.m.—3 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free admission. 663-3800.

Artists Market and Craft Show: Huron High School. Over 100 vendors show and sell jewelry, stained glass, woodwork, textiles, gourmet food, bath and body items, artwork, home decor items, and more. Live music by student musicians and school orchestras. Lunch available. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. \$2 admission.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Area Historical Society. Sale of handmade gift items and Christmas crafts. Also, a sale of homemade breads, cookies, and candies. Santa Claus is on hand to visit with kids and

Gelebrate BUY LOCAL WEEK - December 4-10, 2006



Win a \$250 Gift Certificate

As our thanks to you for supporting our community's locally-owned businesses this holiday season, you can enter to win a \$250 gift certificate to any participating business.

Find out more about where to enter the contest as well as our Buy Local Week events such as Shadow Art Fair, Socially Responsible Local Business Showcase, and PresenTable All-In-One-Room Shopping event by visiting our website or calling (734) 730-6905.



Join Us for a **Documentary** Screening of Independent America

Saturday, December 9th, 2-3:30pm, Michigan Theater. Join us for an exclusive screening of a documentary about two former NBC journalists who set across America with the goal of shopping, eating, and sleeping only at independently-owned businesses. Free donuts and snacks, and chances to enter the Buy Local Week contest starting at 1:30pm. \$12 donation at the door.

Find out more at www.ThinkLocalFirst.net

Homegrown Spirit of the Season!





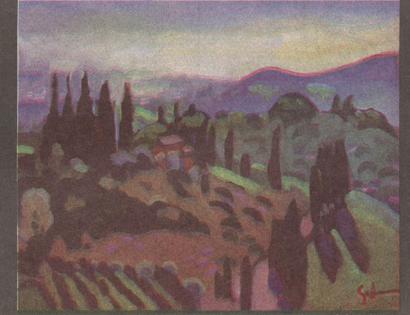


ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET

Locally grown produce, plants, flowers, food items, plus arts and crafts.

December: Sat. & Wed. 7am - 3pm January: Sat. 8am - 3pm 315 Detroit Street (734) 994-FARM www.a2gov.org/market

Greg Sobran



Fattoria di Fubbiano, Oil on Linen

The artist presents his annual studio show and sale featuring new paintings from Tuscany, northern Michigan, Paris, The Mediterranean, Aspen, the Florida Keys and Canada

December 2nd - 23rd, 10am-7pm, daily

At the schoolhouse on West Ellsworth and Wagner, 2 miles southwest of Ann Arbor





Boar's Head Festival

presented by

First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor 1432 Washtenaw Avenue

Friday & Saturday, December 8 & 9 - 7:30 p.m.

> Tickets \$8.00 adult \$5.00 teens & seniors \$3.00 children under 12

Available at church office weekdays & Sundays: 734-662-4466 www.firstpresbyterian.org *"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. This family-oriented dinosaur program includes a fossil dig, a dinosaur puppet show, a dinosaur craft, screening of dinosaur films, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. Prize drawing. Refreshments. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

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pose for photos. Proceeds benefit the Dexter Area Museum. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission.

*"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS members Rob and Nancy French lead a trip (in the WAS field trip van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, and possibly other area sites, to look for unusual glaucous, Iceland, lesser black-backed, and other rare gulls. 9 gull species have been spotted in the county in recent years. 9 a.m., meet at Huron High School parking lot, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. Limited to 10 partic-

ipants; preregistration required at fieldtrips@ washtenaudubon.org. 994-8418.

*"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube." Every Saturday & Sunday. Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning and advanced practitioners. 9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free.

*Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday. 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 am. & 1 pm., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 973-9225.

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. December 2 & 3. This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's topic: "Michigan Ecology." 10 a.m.—5 p.m. (Dec. 2) & noon—5 p.m. (Dec. 3), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. \$7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.

Craft Show: Dexter Senior Citizens. Show and sale of aprons, crocheted items, and more created by seniors. Bake sale. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–7737.

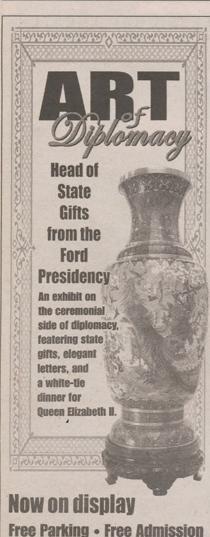
"Christkindlmarket": Saline-Lindenberg Friendship Committee. Show and sale of German gifts and food, jewelry, art glass, candles, and more. Also, craft activities for children, a holiday parade along Michigan Avenue (5:30 p.m.), carolers, and a visit from Santa. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., downtown Saline. Free admission. 429–4063.

"4 Friends Holiday Sale": Marsi Darwin, Marlene Dusbiber, Susan Falcone, and Tracy Gallup. Show and sale of stained and etched glass, folk art carvings, fine art dolls, and paintings by these Chelsea and Ann Arbor artists. Also, works by more than 12 other local artists, fresh holiday greens, and honey. Live music and refreshments. 10 a.m.—4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Old Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475–9730.

★"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tileworks. Hourly studio tours and demonstrations of press-molding tile (1 & 3 p.m.), glazing (1:15 & 3:15 p.m.), and mounting and grouting tile (1:30 p.m.). Participants can also decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) to be glazed and fired for later pickup. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213–0017.

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 2 & 3. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 am.—5 pm., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 2 & 3. This 19th-century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. As visitors tour the kerosene-lamp-lit 2-story brick farmhouse, docents in period dress in each room—even the attic—discuss such tidbits as the sound-muffling effect of the bedroom chamber pots' crocheted lid covers and an ingenious two-sided china cabinet built into the wall between the kitchen and dining room. Free hot cider in the farm's spartan log cabin, where docents demonstrate the cooking hook over the cozy wood fire. Also, a gift shop with baked goods baked on the





1000 Beal Avenue • Ann Arbor, Mi 481 (734) 205-0555 www.fordlibrarymuseum. Open Weekdays 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m

Gerald R. Ford Library

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The 10th annual Evening of Sacred Song, featuring many well-known community members, occurs at Genesis of Ann Arbor Dec. 2.

woodstove, old-fashioned toys, historical books, handmade soaps and candles, fresh greenery items, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 2) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 3), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. \$3 admission (seniors, \$2; children ages 5–17, \$1; age 4 & younger, free). 426–9135, (313) 278–3701.

*24th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday.

*"Charlotte's Web Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids age 6 & up invited to make a spiderweb and puppets of their favorite characters from E. B. White's classic children's tale. 10–11 a m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. be-tween Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd; & 2-3 p.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free.

*"Public Education: Cornerstone of American Democracy": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talk by Michigan Association of School Boards govern-ment relations director Tony Derezinski. Followed by discussion. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-noon, U-M Turn-er Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free.

★"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. December 2 & 9. Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M physics professor emeritus Marc Ross. Today and December 9: a 2-part talk on "Automobile Efficiencies: Reducing Fuel Use While Improving Safety." Breakfast refreshments. 10:30–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764–4437.

*Santa Claus: Kerrytown Shops. December 2, 9, 16, & 23. Kids can visit Santa as parents take pictures. 11 am.–2 pm., Kerrytown. Free. 662–5008.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: \$4/day, \$20/year (\$12 for seniors age 62 & over). 434–1615.

*"The Nutcracker": Nicola's Books. Youth Dance Theater dancers preview their annual production of this classic holiday ballet (see 8 Friday listing). 11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free.

*Storytelling: Borders Express. A Borders Express staff member reads children's books TBA. 11 a.m., Borders Express, Briarwood Mall. Free. 669-0785.

*Storytime: Nicola's Books. Every Saturday. Storytelling program for kids ages 2½-7. Also, a poststorytelling visit from Santa on December 9. 11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph

DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"Treasure Island": EMU Theater Department. December 2, 3, 8, & 9. Phil Simmons directs EMU drama students in local children's theater playwright Jeff Duncan and composer Ryan Lewis's musical adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson children's classic in the slapstick style of British pantomime known as panto. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students, \$12; kids age 12 & under, \$6) in advance and at the door. Group discounts available. 487-1221.

"The Sky Tonight"/"Ring World": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 17 and December 26-29. The Sky Tonight (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 26-29) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. Ring World (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both weekend days and December 26–29) is an audiovisual show about the journey of the robotic spacecraft Cassini to Saturn and its fascinating discoveries about this planet. Followed by a brief star talk. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.75.

*"Preventing and Dealing with Fatigue, Depression, ADD, Autism, and Pain": Whole Foods Mar-ket. Talk by local osteopath Thomas Kabisch. Noon-1 p.m., Whole Foods Market Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Every Tuesday & Saturday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 1-3 p.m. (Sat.) & 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Tues.), location TBA. Free. 222-9803, p.m. (Tue 761–1115.

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. December 2, 3, 9, & 10. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. Refreshments include lebkuchen. 1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1 (children under 12, free). 994–4898.

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. Docentguided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. I—4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 764–3482.

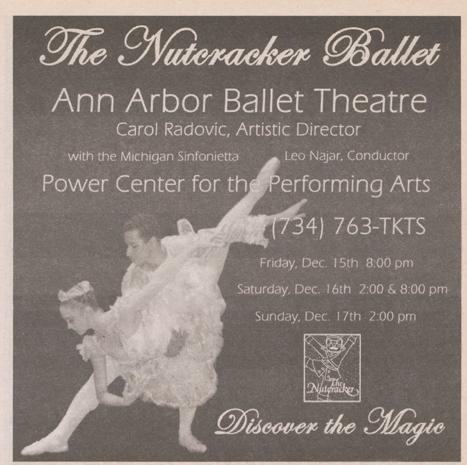
*Annette: Barnes & Noble. Annette LoCante-Blank is a local Wisconsin-bred country-pop vocalist who has released 3 nationally distributed CDs. Today she performs songs from her forthcoming CD, *Grow*ing into Myself. 1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Wofford. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22.764-0247.

*Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 17. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ypsilanti Area Dancers.

December 2 & 3. Heidi Vitso leads a company of





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A CHRISTMAS

Get into the holiday spirit this year with Bob Cratchit, Scrooge and Tiny Tim in this new production based on the heart-warming tale by Charles Dickens.

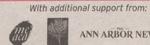
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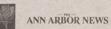


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DEC. 9





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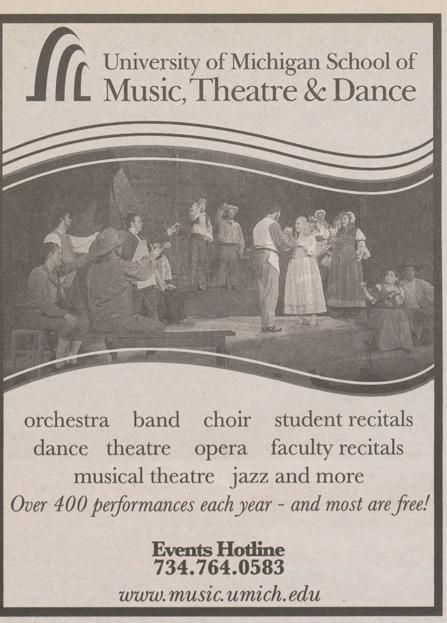
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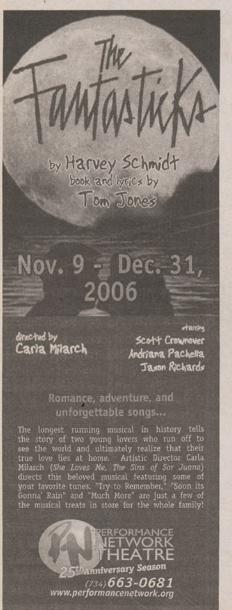
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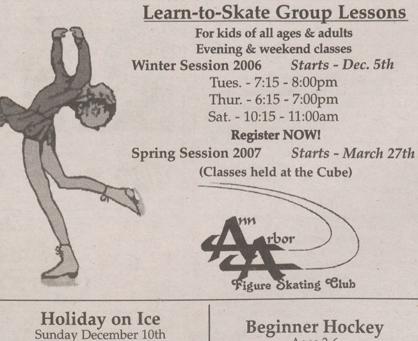
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dancers ages 6-18 in Tchaikovsky's beloved Christ-mas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. This year's celebrity performers: Ypsilanti City Council member Lois Richardson, EMU English professor Heather Neff, Ypsilanti Township supervisor Ruth Ann Jamnick, and Ypsilanti schools superintendent James Hawkins. 2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets \$13 in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) & Randazzo Dance (4569 Washtenaw), and at the door. 528-9682.

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. 3-4 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. \$10.

"Majestic Michigan": 31st Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. Lavishly decorated gala with cocktails and a gourmet dinner, followed by dancing. Proceeds benefit the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. 7 p.m.-l a.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. \$1,250 (dancing & dessert only, \$300) per couple. Reservations required. 712–4040.

9th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. December 2 & 3. Tour of 4 homes lavishly decorated for Christmas, including a 1935 Colonial at 1107 West Cross, a 1926 farmhouse with elaborate brickwork at 845 East Cross, a 1926 Dutch colonial at 1124 North Congress, and a home inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's designs at 6950 Hickory Run. The December 2 "candlelight" tour includes refreshments at each of the homes and a tour of the new EMU Student Center at 900 Oakwood. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. 7-10 p.m. (Dec. 2) & noon-5:30 p.m. (Dec. 3), various lo-cations. Tickets \$30 (both days) & \$15 (Dec. 3 only) in advance in Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials and Haab's Restaurant, \$20 (Dec. 3 only) day of tour.

*Ann Arbor Smocking Group. Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA.

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. December 2 & 16. Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). 7:30 p.m St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. \$5.

"10th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Celebra-tion of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. Jeanne Mackey directs this 12-member ad hoc local vocal ensemble in an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed a cappella and with instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Sacred Song members are Julia B., Lisa Marshall Bashert, Yarrow Halstead, Laura Machida, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Kathy Moore, Dale Petty, Andrew Schreiber, Robin Wilson, LaRon Williams, Rhonda Bantsimba, Michael Bratcher, Mary Anne Perrone, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Don Allen, Dave SmilingSun, Tom Voiles, Gae Winn, and director Mackey. Proceeds benefit the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and a local family facing immigration issues 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. \$5-\$20 (kids under age 12, free) sliding scale at the door only. 975-8791

29th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 1 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

*Singles Party: Jewish Ann Arbor Singles. All 8–11 p.m., location TBA. Free. Reservations required by e-mail at j_aa_s@yahoo.com. 483–8352.

International Folk Dancing. Balkan, Middle East-ern, European, and line and circle dancing to live music by Bruce Sagan and Veselba. No partner needed. 8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. \$5–\$10 (students, \$3–\$5) donation. 995–0011.

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Carol Jacobs calls to music by the Java Junkies. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. Preceded at 3-6 p.m. by a free open jam for string and other musicians. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$9; AACTMAD members, \$8; students, \$5.769-1052.

Waleed Howrani. December 2 & 3. This internationally acclaimed local pianist performs a varied program that includes Mozart's Sonata in C, Prokofiev's Sonata no. 2, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2, and 2 works by Debussy, Suite Bergamasque and La Plus que Lent. "[Howrani's] technical command, close attention to minute details, and lucid

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interpretive powers are buoyed by a poetic sensitivity that is at once refined and free-spirited," says the Washington Post. Reception follows. 8 p.m., North-side Community Church, 929 Barton. \$15 at the door

Don White: The Ark. This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharpwitted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 3 acclaimed CDs. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

128th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). December 2 & 3. Jerry Blackstone directs the choral union, U-M harpsichord professor Edward Parmentier, and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Janice Chandler-Eteme, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Dudley, tenor Colin Blazar, and baritone Stephen Salter. The Choral Union Messiah, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$30 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800)

*"Heat Lightning": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. December 2 & 3. RC drama students present a staged reading of their dramatic adaptation of a short story by Drew Hayden Taylor, a rehowned Canadian Ojibwa playwright and humorist whose play In a World Created by a Drunken God was nominated for a 2006 Governor General's Award, Canada's highest literary prize. The adaptation was developed with the assistance of U-M drama lecturer Martin Walsh and Taylor, who is in residence at the RC this fall. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

*"Mnemonic": U-M Basement Arts Theater. See 1 Friday. Evening time TBA.

*"Merchant of Venice": Greenhills School. See

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story" & "The Story of Krumplestiltskin": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 1 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. Every Saturday except December 30 (note new location). A competition among 6 improv comics playing silly improv games, a la Whose Line Is It Anyway? Each comic competes on behalf of 6 audience members for such fabulous prizes as a mealtime supply of Rice-a-Roni. Ages 18 & older admitted. Alcohol is served. 8–9:30 P.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets \$10 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.

Dave Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

The Slackers: The Blind Pig. All ages admitted. Ska and rocksteady by this popular New York City band that fleshes out its sound with everything from the traditional horns to pedal steel guitar and violin. "The Slackers are perhaps the best and the brightest of American ska to date; they reinvent their sound with each album, keeping the music fresh, alive, and relevant," says All Music Guide reviewer Margaret Crandall. Opening act is Deals Gone Bad, a soulinflected ska-reggae band from Chicago. 8:30 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

Lindy and Blues Dance Party: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Dancing to pre-recorded swing and blues music. Preceded by a lindy and blues workshop (\$60), 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Dancer's Edge Dance Studio, 3045 Broad St., Dexter. \$5 (students with ID \$3).417-9857.

*'Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. December 2 & 16. Tango dancing to recorded music. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 973-2338.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha

dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., danceRevolution, 603 E. William. \$5.945-8428.

1st Saturday Singles Dance: Parents Without ing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members, \$6), 973-1933

Carlos Mencia: Live Nation. The host of the Comedy Central hit *Mind of Mencia*, this East L.A. comic is known for his abrasive, irreverent satiric diatribes directed at both sides of the culture wars. 7 & 10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$40 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticket-master outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS

M-Flicks. "Serenity" (Joss Whedon, 2005). Fast-paced science fiction adventure story about a telepath who gets caught in the crosshairs of a galactic battle. Based on the popular sci-fi TV show. FREE, but ticket required. 763–1107. Nat. Sci., 8 p.m. MTF. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

3 SUNDAY

★Falun Gong. Every Sunday. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834-4978.

*Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling. Every unday. All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. 9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.

"8th Annual Gift-Fest": Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. Sale of works by local artists in a wide range of media, including clothing, metal sculpture, greeting cards, weavings, jewelry, clothing, ceramics books, sculpture, cards, paintings, and more. Refreshments. Also, raffle of handmade Christmas ornaments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free admission. 272-2901.

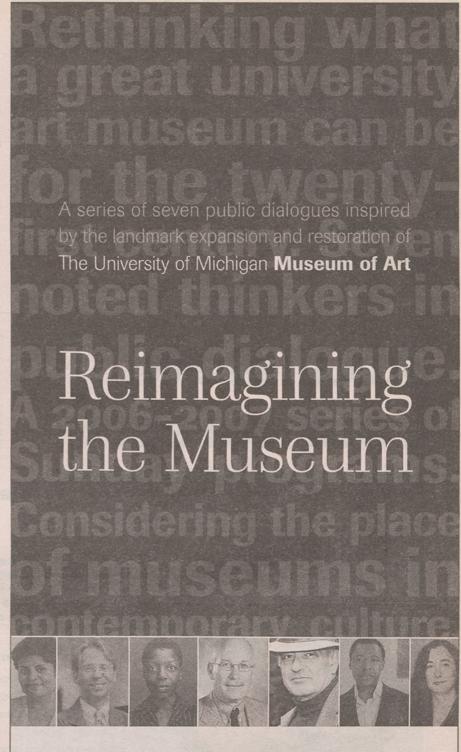
★Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. Every unday. Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. 10-11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.

*Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Bud-dhist Center. Every Sunday through December 17. Talks by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today's topic: "Offerings of Joy." Also this month: "Regret Is Not Guilty" (December 10) and "Exponential Benefits of Rejoicing" (December 17). 10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations accepted.

*Preschool Hanukkah Celebration: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Preschoolers and their caregivers invited for a secular humanistic Hanukkah program with craft activities, songs, and other educational activities. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd south of Packard). Free. Reservations requested.

*"The Crisis in the Environment as Highlighted in Jared Diamond's 'Collapse,' Jane Goodall's 'Harvest for Hope,' and Lester Brown's 'Plan 2.0'": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by Winifred Wylie, founder of the first Montessori school in Washtenaw County. 10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.

*First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday through December 17. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Presbyterian member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on "Joseph, the Magi, and the Sheptaped fecture on "Joseph, the Magi, and the Shepherds" from the Teaching Company series Great Figures in the New Testament. Also this month: all invited to bring a dish to pass for a holiday party that also includes a talk by church member Marge Van Meter on "Religion" (December 10) and a group discussion on "New Year's Resolutions: Are They Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 10) and a support of the Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 10) and a support of the Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 10) and a support of the Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 10) and a support of the Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 10) and a support of the Successful or Is It Just Talk?" (December 11) and the Shepherds of the Shep They Successful, or Is It Just Talk?" (December 17). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free



Through February 2007, this major series explores the museum's role in 21st-century civic and intellectual life, provoking new visions for the bolder, more dynamic UMMA that is to come.

DECEMBER 3 / Raymond Silverman, Director of the University of Michigan's Museum Studies Program, Professor of African Art History and an expert in the history of museums in Africa and the representation of African cultures in Western museums

3 PM / Hutchins Hall, UM Law School, 625 S. State St., Ann Arbor

DECEMBER 10 / Nicholas Delbanco, Robert Frost Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Michigan, novelist and essayist, and a lifelong observer of museums and the visual arts, here and in Europe

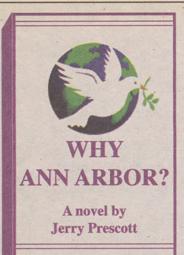
Free; no reservations required.

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*24th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. Also today: a Christmas concert (3 p.m.), with a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music. 11

3 SUNDAY continued

*Tour: Zingerman's Creamery. Every Sunday through December 17. Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the new facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. Noon-2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929-0500.

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of mid-19thcentury Christmases, with period Christmas decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live music. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, including a barnyard with live animals. Attendees can dip a candle to take home. Gift shop. Noon-4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$3 (families, \$5; kids, \$1.50; kids under age 3, free). 994–2928.

★19th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 1 Friday. Today's highlights include a holiday concert by the Chelsea Chamber Players (3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St.) and the "Holiday Festival of Carols" (6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle). Also, "Create Your Own Angel" craft activity (noon-4:30 p.m., Uptown Antiques) and an "Antique Music Box Concert" (2-3 p.m., The Chelsea Collection). Noon-7 p.m.

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★St. Francis of Assisi Choir: Barnes & Noble. December 3 & 4. St. Francis middle school (December 3) and elementary (December 4) choirs perform Christmas carols. Noon (Dec. 3) & 3 p.m. (Dec. 4), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

*Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769-5911.

*"There and Back: A Visit to the Khasi Hills": First Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Talks by 5 congregation members who just returned from a visit to northeast India. 12:45 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 665-6158.

*Winter Democratic Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908.

★"Manuscripts and Diaries in Your Genealogical Research": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by club librarian Bobbie Snow. Fol-lowed by a session led by club members Carolyn Griffin, Marcia McCrary, and Jan Tripp on "Writing Queries and Short Histories." 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

"Junie B. Jones": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City-based children's the ater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its colorful, funny, fast-paced musical based on Bar-bara Park's stories about the rambunctious firstgrader Junie B. Jones. The plot involves making new friends, getting new glasses, the annual kickball tournament, and other angst-ridden first-grade ordeals. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF mem bers, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Miami (Florida). 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

★"German Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library. Family-oriented program of traditional German Christmas craft and treats. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.

*"Kerry Tales: Candles and Songs and Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute familyoriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769-3115.

*Wendy Popko: Barnes & Noble. This wellknown Detroit artist reads from 2 children's books she illustrated, Has Anyone Seen Christmas? and The Fairy Painting. Signing. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

*Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 2-3 p.m., Oz's Music Envi-

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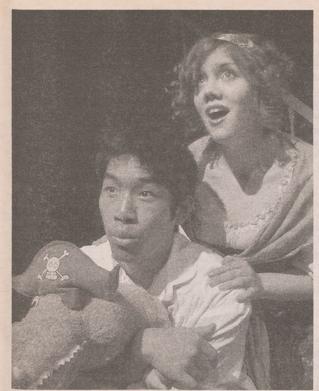
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The EMU theater department presents the children's classic Treasure Island Dec. 2, 3, 8, & 9.

ronment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome.

*E3Q: U-M Residential College. Avant-jazz originals by this RC music faculty trio featuring cellist Katri Ervamaa, percussionist Michael Gould, and trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann. They perform music from their debut CD, Songbook One. 2 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 647-4354.

"Winter Dreams": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volum orchestra in a program highlighted by Dvorak's Silent Woods, with cello soloist Robert Reed. Also, Dvorak's Symphony no. 7 and Overture to Glinka's Russlan and Ludmilla. 2 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$12 (seniors & kids under age 12, \$8; family of up to 2 adults & 2 kids under age 12, \$25) in advance and at the door. 485-2947.

128th Annual "Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 2 Satur-

"Treasure Island": EMU Theater Department. See 2 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"H.M.S. Pinafore": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

*Raymond Silverman: U-M Museum of Art. This U-M African art history professor and Museum Studies director discusses the relationship between museums and their visitors. 3 p.m., U-M Law School, 625 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features such handmade arts and crafts as vivid, intricate *cuadros*, or cloth applique scenes. Also, jewelry and jewelry boxes, musical instruments, clothing, purses, scarves, pillows, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm ani-mals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3-7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

"The Nutcracker Ballet": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 2 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Chemical Traces: A Unabomber Love Story" & "The Story of Krumplestiltskin": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Friday. 4 p.m.

29th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 1 Friday. 4 p.m.

*"The Leach Pottery": Yourist Pottery. Screening of a video of this silent homemade B&W 1952 film that explores the studio and work of Bernard Leach, the English potter regarded as the "father of modern pottery" who almost single-handedly rescued the art from oblivion in the early 20th century. 4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.

"Advent Afternoon of Fun": First Congregational Church. All invited to make a gingerbread house to take home. Also, kids crafts. Pizza available. 4-6 First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Donation, 662-1679.

Waleed Howrani. See 2 Saturday. 4:30 p.m.

★Yizhak Schotten and Kather-ine Collier: U-M School of Music. U-M viola professor Schotten and U-M piano professor Collier perform Beethoven's Notturno, Kreisler's Praeludi-um and Allegro, and Schubert's Piano Quintet in A, which features 3 U-M music students, violinist Katharina Uhde, cellist Caroline Nicholas, and bassist Evan Premo. Also, other works TBA. 5 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North' Campus. Free. 764-0594.

*Ann Arbor Morris Dancers December 3, 10, & 17. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8

p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 2625 Traver Blvd.

*Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders. All invited to join a discussion of Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World, Jack Weatherford's gripping account of how the Mongols conquered in just 25 years more land and people than Rome had ever ruled. 6-8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

★"Searching for God: A Survey of Modern Jew-ish Theologies": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk by rabbinic intern Jennifer Goldsmith. 6-7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665-4744.

*Advent Play: St. Luke Lutheran Church. Doyle Garrett directs the church's original series of skits, with musical interludes, about people struggling with various problems at Christmastime. 6 p.m., Whitmore Lake High School, 7430 Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 971-0550.

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. Every Sunday. All women invited to gather for a drumming jam ses sion. 7-8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. \$10.913-9670.

Winter Music Fest: Unity Church of Ann Arbor. Guest performances by inspirational vocalists Lau-ren Lane Powell and Kirsten Hart and The Rick Roe Trio, an award-winning local jazz trio led by pianist Roe. Also, the church's Voices of Unity and Women's Ensemble of Unity choirs. Reception follows. 7 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). \$20 in advance, \$25 (kids over 12, \$10) at the door.

"Songs We Like": Kerrytown Concert House. A quartet of U-M musical theater grads—Mike Mosallam, Amanda Satchell, Jim Daly, and Maddy Wyatt-present a program of musical theater songs old and new, performing solo and in various duets and trio combinations. This mellow concert is "like a group of 100 people sitting around at an old friend's house," notes Mosallam. Accompanist is pianist-Eric Lofstrom. 7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 (students, \$10) in advance and at the door. 769-2999

Lee Murdock: The Ark. Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends rag-time, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompa-nies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his "Christmas Ship Concert," a family concert commemorating a turn-of-the-19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with a deck piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

U-M Ballroom Dancers. December 3 & 17. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more.

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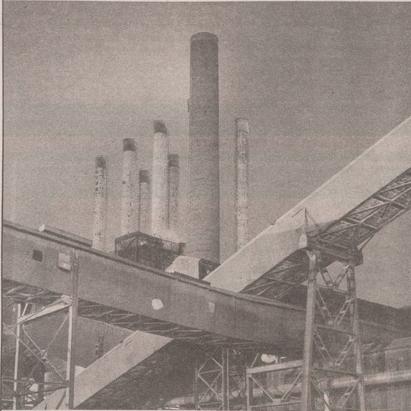
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This project is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund, as part of its support of UMMA's 2006-07 season.

Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by Michigan Radio.

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3 SUNDAY continued

No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 3) and Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 17). \$3.763–6984.

★"Heat Lightning": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 2 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. December 3, 10, & 17 (note new location). Open mike for up-and-coming local stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. December 3, 10, & 17 (note new location). Improv comedy alternating with rapping. "Just like Eight Mile, except funny on purpose," say organizers. Alcohol is served. 9:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. \$5.214-7080.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. December 3, 10, & 17 (note new location). Character-driven improv by the quintet Eye Candy. Alcohol is served. 10:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" (Elia Kazan, 1945). Charming, affecting story of an Irish American family determined to move up from the slums. Based on the beloved Betty Smith novel. Dorothy McGuire. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Old Joy" (Kelly Reichardt, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

4 MONDAY

★"Monday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Monday. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. 9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851–8323 & (517) 285–6830.

*Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. Every Monday except December 25. Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, Bible study and chair exercises. Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch (\$1) and socializing. Also, today only, Marylen Oberman presents a "Memory Writing Workshop." 10 a.m.-noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.

★24th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 1 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Monday except December 25. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. 10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors (\$100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 663–5907.

★"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Every Monday through December 11. Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play days are also offered (through the week of December 11) at the Pittsfield (Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Malletts Creek (Tuesdays, 10–11 a.m., & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Northeast (Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.) branches. 10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Monday except December 25. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with Just for Men, a discussion group for men. Also, "Fitness Fun" (11 a.m.—noon), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and the Writing Group (1–3 p.m.). Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. December 4, 11, & 18. U-M men's basketball coach Tommy Amaker is joined for weekly lunchtime talks by women's rowing coach Mark Rothstein (today), men's golf coach Andrew Sapp (December 11), and women's lacrosse coach Mary Ann Meltzer (December 18). 11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$14 (members, \$9; seniors, \$8.50). 663–7420.

*"Food for Life": Whole Foods Market. December 4 & 11. Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit Cancer Project, shows how to prepare foods thought to help prevent cancer. Today: "Immune Boosting Foods." Also this month:

"Maintaining Healthy Weight" (December 11). 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975-4500.

★"Possessives Used as a Drink (Me)": U-M Institute for the Humanities. Lecture on pronouns in the form of 15 sonnets presented as a multimedia installation featuring both live and recorded performances. The work is a collaboration of the renowned poet (and U-M classics professor) Anne Carson, sound designer Stephanie Rowden, videographer Sadie Wilcox, and Merce Cunningham Company dancers Andrea Martin, Julie Cunningham, and Rashaun Mitchell. Noon-1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 1022. Free. 936–3518.

★"Chavez, Oil, and Politics": U-M Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Talk by Elie Habalian Dumat, the Venezuelan governor to OPEC. Part of the LS&A Citizenship Theme Year. Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–0844.

*Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Monday except December 25. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. 1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

★Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like mah-jongg, bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. 1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

★"Gender, Nation, and Music: Copland to Bollywood": U-M Women's Studies Department. Talks by U-M English and women's studies grad student Pavitra Sundar and U-M music and women's studies professor Nadine Hubbs. 4 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 763–2047.

*Avis Farms Toastmasters. December 4 & 18. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. 5:15–7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: \$18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 332–1200.

*Sahaja Yoga & Meditation: Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Every Monday except December 25. All invited to try this practice that blends yoga and meditation. 6-7 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.

*"Paesano's Executive Chef Isabella Cooks!": Whole Foods Market. Paesano's chef Isabella Nicolletti prepares 3 dishes from her new cookbook Perbacco Isabella!: winter Sicilian salad, smoked ricotta with chestnut honey, and a mussels appetizer. 6–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.

*Huron Valley Toastmasters. Every Monday except December 25. Members give speeches, receive helpful feedback from experienced members, and learn through observing and practicing. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria Conference Room D. 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. 972–4619.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. Every Monday except December 25. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.

Dream Group. Every Monday except December 25. All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corinne Hillebrandt. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 663–6297.

★"Outlaws of America: The Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity": Shaman Drum Bookshop. Dan Berger, a writer and activist from Philadelphia who coedited *Letters from Young Activists*, reads from his collection of interviews with former members of the Weather Underground, Black Panthers, and other activist groups. Signing. 7:30 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

★EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

*Student String Quartet Recital: U-M School of Music. Chamber recital by quartets of U-M perform-

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School of perform-

Small Potatoes

Careful indecision

There's a certain mode of between-song folk-music patter that Small Potatoes, the Illinois duo of Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, exemplifies to the hilt. Call it mid-

western, or Keilloresqueif you go out to hear folk music in Boston, the stories between the songs are always a bit more literary. These two like to tell funstories that lead obliquely into serious

Prezioso tells of seeing a 1968 Chevrolet Impala—the model of car on which he learned to drive-bearing a historicvehicle license plate, and then sings of how time flies but he can't get off the ground. Small Potatoes performs songs by other Chicago-area songwriters in addition to its own: Michael Smith's lovely "Crazy Mary," a song about the final act of self-

expression of an elderly neighborhood eccentric, is introduced with an account of a visit to a Toilet Seat Art Museum, a neighborhood folk-art effort the duo encountered on a trip to San Antonio.

Not that humor is neglected in the songs themselves. Manning's "Knott"—"Think Abbott and Costello on Hee Haw," they say-brings together the three daughters of the Knott's Berry Farm clan, Shirley, Mayella Beatrice (May Bea), and Wynona (Wy), for an encounter with a traveling salesman. Manning apologizes in advance for the song,

ance majors, all of whom are required to study chamber music. Program TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Cam-

*University Choir: U-M School of Music. Paul

Rardin conducts this music-student ensemble in

Arthur Honegger's King David, a poignant, lyrical, stylistically eclectic setting of the biblical story of the greatest of the kings of Israel. Performed in English,

with U-M student soloists. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium.

Gojogo: Kerrytown Concert House. This California- and Tennessee-based quartet of violinist Sarah Jo Zaharako, bassist Eric Perney, percussionist Elias Re-itz, and tabla tarang player Ben Mawhorter is joined

by local electric trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann and accordionist Patrick Farrell to perform instrumental music that combines elements of classical music, In-

dian percussion, and electronic samples. One critic called its new CD *All Is Fair* "a cross between the Kronos Quartet and the Grassy Knoll." 8 p.m., KCH,

415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in ad-

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday except December 25. Local high school English

teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Harold and

Maude" (Hal Ashby, 1972). Dark comedy about the love affair between a death-obsessed young man and

a spry octogenarian, with music by Cat Stevens. Bud

Cort, Ruth Gordon. Part of the "Comic Masters" se-

ries. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. "Old Joy" (Kelly Reichardt, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "For Your Consid-

eration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Max Kade Film Screenings. "Das Experiment" (Oliver Hirschbiegel,

vance and at the door. 769-2999.

FILMS

which has enough twists of preposterous puns to become worthy of its Bud-and-Lou inspiration.

But Small Potatoes never pushes the funny business too far. The songs veer with the naturalness of unforced conversation from comedy to "1000 Candles, 1000 Cranes," a song about an American woman

who lost two sons in World War II and ends up in an elder-care facility under the care of a Japanese nurse who survived the blast at Hiroshima as a girl. Manning makes a specialty of quizzical songs of random events— "The Dollar Episode," in which a sequence of passersby pick a dollar bill up from a sidewalk and then throw it back, or "Life Is an Accident." The duo's repertoire as a whole is something of an accident, too-Prezioso told the Chicago Tribune that it was "the result of years of careful indecision." Various instruments make their appearance onstage, and Prezioso and Manning

have done some real virtuoso songwriting; her "Waltz of the Wallflowers," a song that weaves together the interior monologues of two shy people finding their way to the dance floor, took a top prize at the Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Contest in Texas.

Small Potatoes comes to the Green Wood United Methodist Church-Ann Arbor's current headquarters for bring-the-kids, have-a-brownie-and-kick-your-shoes-off, living-room-sing-along-style folk musicon Friday, December 8.

-James M. Manheim

2001). A makeshift prison is set up in a research lab, where for 2 weeks 20 male participants are hired to play prisoners and guards. Based on the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment." German, subtitles. Free. 764-5018. Max Kade house (Baits II, 1440 Hubbard, North Campus), 7-10 p.m.

5 TUESDAY

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday & Wednesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. 9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 12:45–3:30 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for

*Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. 10 a.m.—noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

*Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Tuesday through December 12. Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered (through the week of December 11) at the Malletts Creek (Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.), Pittsfield (Thursdays, 7-7:30 p.m., and Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m.), and Northeast (Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m.) branches. 10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).

*Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors invited to participate in "Let's Talk About," a social discussion group that focuses on issues of grandparenting. Followed by mah-jongg (noon-2 p.m.). 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★Group Drumming and Singing: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *December 5 & 12.* All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for singing, drumming, and dancing. Drums provid-

ed. 10:30-11 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★"Without Borders: Toward a More Global Education": U-M Health System Multicultural Health Series. Talk by U-M anatomy professor Ameed Raoof. Noon-1 p.m., Mott Children's Hospital Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr. from Observatory). Free. 936-9836.

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Every Tuesday through December 12. Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: University of Washington sociology professor Gary Hamilton discusses "Missing the Market: A Critique of Developmen-tal State Theories of East Asian Industrialization." Also this month: Nanjing University literature pro-fessor Zhangcan Cheng discusses "The Crouching Tiger and Perching Dragon: An Image of Historical Nanjing" (December 12). Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.

*Davy Rothbart: EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series. This local fiction writer, a frequent contributor to NPR's *This American Life*, reads from his work, including stories from his acclaimed collection *The Lone Surfer of Montana*, Kansas. Also the creator of Found magazine, Rothbart reads some of his favorites among the discarded notes, letters, flyers, lists, and other items that he has published in the magazine. Davy's brother Peter Rothbart is also expected to be on hand to sing some of the songs he has fashioned from his brother's finds. 5 p.m., 350 Student Center, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), EMU cam-pus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1310.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. December 5 & 6. Joshua Major directs U-M music students in excerpts from operas by Handel, Mozart, and Dvorak. 5 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★"A Busy Cook's Guide to the Holidays": Busch's. A Busch's representative discusses and demonstrates easy and portable holiday recipes. 6–7:30 p.m., Busch's, 2240 S. Main. Free. 998–2666.

★"The Local and Global Politics of Citizenship: Arab American Civil Rights in Michigan after September 11": U-M Program in American Culture. Talks by American Arab Antidiscrimination Committee deputy director Rana Abbas and ACLU Michigan communications director Rana Elmir. Part of the U-M Citizenship Theme Year. 6–7:30 p.m., G115 Angell Hall. Free. 763–1460.

*Ann Arbor Front Runners. Every Tuesday & Thursday. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. 6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741–1763.

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Every Tuesday. All knitters invited to bring their cur-rent projects to work on and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945-3035.

"Secret Foods of the South": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Gournet magazine contributing editor and All Things Considered culinary curator John T. Edge, author of A Gracious Plenty: Recipes and Recollec-tions of the American South and several other acclaimed cookbooks, and Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young host a dinner featuring recipes little known even to most southerners, including Mississippi Delta tamales, Nashville hot fried chicken, Alabama chow chow, Nassau grits, apple stack cake, and fried sweet potato pocket pies. A fund-raiser for Scotker Feeds Alliague a property fit devoted to describe the cook and the cook Southern Foods Alliance, a nonprofit devoted to documenting and preserving regional foods of the South. 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. \$65. Space limited; reservations required. 663-FOOD.

"Attaining Lasting Satisfaction": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Tuesday through December 12. Talks by Gehlek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today: visiting lama **Khem Rimpoche**, a native of Ladakh, India, who has been teaching in the U.S. for 15 years, discusses "Considering Reincarnation." Also this month, a Jewel Heart student discusses "The Wisdom in Generosity" (December 12). 7–8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5). 994–3387.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Every Tuesday except December 26. Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Ray Bantle and Arlene Kindel call to music by Childgrove. Also this month: callers Greg Meisner and Marty Wilson with music by Bedrock (December 12) and callers Shirley Harden and Ray Bantle with music by David West, Donna Baird, Steve Schneider, Anne Ormond, and Tammy Corwin-Renner (December 19). 7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. \$6 (students, \$4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.











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Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Reading by Alvin Lau, a 2-time Chicago youth champion who has appeared on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and been a featured poet on the Amnesty International Spoken Word Tour. Also, open-mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. 7-10 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. \$5. For information, call Larry Francis at

*Sweet Adelines County Connection. Every Tuesday. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40member barbershop harmony chorus. Also, nonmembers are invited to perform with County Connection's Holiday Chorus at occasions around town during the holiday season. 7-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$20 monthly dues for those who join).

*Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Greg Humbel at

*Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus. Every Tuesday. All invited to join this funloving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. 7:30-9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free (\$80 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213-3770.

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass (\$5 per day) required. 663-9740.

*Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show their recent slides and prints. 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$15 annual dues for those who join).

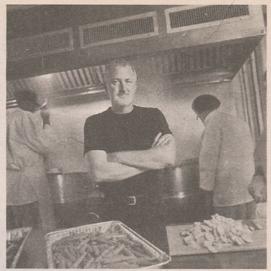
★Introduction to Anthroposophy: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Informal monthly talk on our relationship to the cosmos as described by Rudolf Steiner. Today's speaker: U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. Wheelchair-accessible, 485-3764

★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of Psiquiatras, Psicologos, y Otros Enfermos, Rodrigo Munoz Avia's comic novel about predatory therapists. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

*Upper School Instrumental Concert: Greenhills School. Deborah Henderson and Neil Donato conduct the upper school orchestra, chamber orchestra, wind ensemble, and jazz bands in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

★"A Night of Holiday Cheer": Ypsilanti Community Band. Jerry Robbins directs this 70-member adult band in a program of Christmas music. The band performs Adolphe Adam's "O Holy Night" and Leroy Anderson's A Christmas Festival. Also, a guest performance by the Ypsilanti Community Choir, under Denise Zellner, which performs Mark Hayes's "Fantasy on Five Christmas Carols," John Rutter's "Christmas Lullaby," and Sally Albrecht's "Let the Earth Resound." The program concludes with a joint performance of "O Come, All Ye Faithful." 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 654-9414.

★Collegium Musicum: EMU Music Department. Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra directs this student earlymusic ensemble in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no 6, with viola soloists Eva Stern and Carlos Andres Botero Vargas. Also, Bach's Cantatas nos. 61 and 140. 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.



Robert Egger, whose Washington, D.C., food rescue operation inspired Food Gatherers, signs copies of his book at a reception at Food Gatherers Dec. 6.

*German Speakers' Round Table. Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improvementy. 8-11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$3

Bobby "Blue" Bland: The Ark. A major influence on the development of 60s soul singing, Bland is a smooth yet deep, almost guttural vocal stylist who virtually invented the blues ballad. He's also written a number of songs over the past half century that have become blues standards, including "Turn On Your Love Light" and "Farther On up the Road." A rare chance to hear one of the legends of American popular music in an intimate setting. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$35 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS

*"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. Every Tuesday. All invited to try a wide ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. 10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation, "Black Gold" (Marc & Nick Francis, 2006). December 5, 7, & 10. Beautifully shot documentary about the struggles of an independent coffee cooperative farmer in Ethiopia. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times

6 WEDNESDAY

"Gallup Gatherings": Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Wednesday. All seniors age 55 & older invited for socializing, nature walks, and other activities. Coffee & baked goods provided. 10-11:30 a.m. Gallup Park canoe livery (west side of Huron Pkwy.)

*Toastmasters General. Every Wednesday. Mem bers give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). Noon-12 p.m., F206 Veterans Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd. Free to visitors. 769-7100, ext. 5678.

*"Eldercare: End of Life Issues": U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by local social workers Stephanie Gooden and Ariane Pink. Noon-:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. Preregistration requested. 998-7080.

*"Mysterious Stories, Unsung Heroes, and Unusual Traditions": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk by Temple Congregation Beth Israel rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Bring a lunch; beverages and desserts provided. Noon-1:15 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Pack-ard. Free. 665-9897.

*Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Wednesday. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353

*"From the Thera Volcano to the Trojan War: Myth and Memory in Classical Greece": U-M College o Rackham *Scrabb All invite word gar them. 5-665-9090 *"Shulc group for Royale, 3. Robert F founder o operation spiration erers' Con Change: profits Re

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wards, a Texas, w 7-9:30 1 665-275 *"The I Director rell, and College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M classics professor Richard Janko. 4:10 p.m. Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998–6251.

*Scrabble: The Firefly Club. Every Wednesday. All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. 5-8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free.

★"Shulchan Ivrit (Hebrew Table)": American Movement for Israel. Every Monday. Conversation group for all speakers of Hebrew. 5-6 p.m., Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 769-0500.

Robert Egger: Food Gatherers. Reception for this founder of the D.C. Central Kitchen, a food rescue operation in Washington D.C. that served as the inspiration and model for the formation of Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen in the local Delonis Center. Also, Egger signs copies of his book Begging for Change: The Dollars and Sense of Making Non-profits Responsive, Efficient, and Rewarding for All. Light refreshments. 5:30–7:30 p.m., Food Gatherers Warehouse, 1 Carrot Way at Dhu Varren east of Pon-tiac Trail. \$10 suggested donation. 761–2796.

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Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. Every Wednesday. A chance to sample 5 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of appetizers. (For more about Paesano's, see Restaurant Reviews, p. 53.) 6-7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reserva-tions recommended. \$20.971–0484.

*"Native American, Discovered and Conquered: Thomas Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, and Manifest Destiny": U-M Native American Law Student Association. Talk by Lewis & Clark Law School professor Robert Miller, chief justice of the Court of Appeals for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. 6-7 p.m., 120 Hutchins Hall, U-M Law School, 624 S. State. Free. 763-9044.

*Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their au-dience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: \$30 semiannually.

*Huron Valley Model Builders. All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. 7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton).

6th Annual Poetry Night: The Neutral Zone. Poetry readings by three nationally known rising stars, Against Which author Ross Gay, Asian-American Writer's Workshop Literary Award-winner Patrick Rosal, and 2001 San Francisco Teen Poetry Slam Champion Chinaka Hodge. Also, readings by poets from the Neutral Zone VOLUME youth poetry project, Ann Arbor Wordworks, and local middle and elementary schools. 7-9 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance; \$12 (students, \$7) at the door. 214-9995.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday. Each 2person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.

*Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. Every Wednesday & Thursday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. 7 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free.

*"Beyond Beats and Rhymes": U-M Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center. Screening of filmmaker-activist Byron Hurt's documentary about sexism, violence, hypermasculinity, and homo-phobia in rap music culture. The film features interviews with rappers Mos Def, Fat Joe, Chuck D, Jadakiss, and Busta Rhymes, as well as hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and others. Followed by Q&A with director Hurt. Reception. 7-9:30 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church St. Free. 998-9368.

*Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. December 6 & 13. Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: fiction reading by U-M creative writing grad student Michael Schilling and poetry reading by Joshua Edwards, a widely published poet from Galveston, Texas, who coedits the literary review *The Canary*. 7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.

*"The Fantasticks": Ann Arbor District Library. Director Carla Milarch, musical director Patrick Farrell, and members of the cast discuss the current Performance Network production of this Broadway mu-



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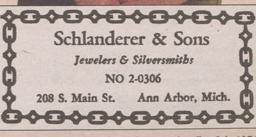
Schlanderer & Sons would like to congratulate the Ann Arbor Observer on thirty wonderful years of capturing the human interest stories, business updates, and current events of Ann Arbor and the surrounding community!

Much like the Observer, Schlanderer & Sons began with dedication to its community. Opening in downtown Ann Arbor in 1933, C. Henry Schlanderer founded Schlanderer & Sons with his two sons, Arthur and Paul. Before opening a business of his own, C. Henry (known as Hank) worked as an apprentice watchmaker in other partnerships for over forty-seven years. Now, after seventy-three years, and in our fourth generation, we are still in the same location at 208 South Main and under that same Schlanderer family ownership.

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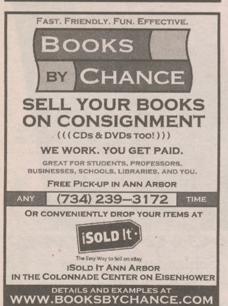
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Ann Arbor Observer

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Tye Tribbett and G.A.

Gospel's forward edge

Tye Tribbett and G.A., an African American gospel choir from Camden, New Jersey, with a young and extremely energetic leader, is coming to Hill Auditorium on Saturday, December 9. Gospel music tends to fly under the media radar, and even a group that can fill a space the size of Hill may not get a lot of advance notice. This one offers plenty of hand-clapping energy, and it's right on gospel's stylistic forward edge.

A twin dynamic is at work in black gospel music. One direction of this dynamic is shared with the white religious tradition and was articulated by an English minister, Rowland Hill (1744–1833). His formulation was so concise and elegant that it was soon misattributed to Martin Luther: "Why should the devil have all the good tunes?" he asked. Contemporary Christian music on both sides of the racial divide pursues secular models, often at a distance of mere months.

Tribbett has been listening to music from two secular sources. One is the phenomenally popular hip-hop group Outkast, whose ambitious albums draw on a wide variety of R&B and pop styles, bringing them together into semidramatic presentations. The other is the sexy, full-throated kind of song called neosoul, which is particularly popular in the Philadelphia area, Tribbett's home. There are a lot of James Brown moves in Tribbett's vocals, bulked up in the music with thicker, more electronic modern beats. Tribbett is a follower of gospel megastar Kirk Franklin, a pioneer in incorporating hip-hop and contemporary R&B into gospel, but his range of styles is even wider. "Hallelujah to Your Name" opens with a pennywhistle (or a keyboard's approximation of one), not a common instrument in gospel, and broadens out into a big Riverdance-style chorus.

With gospel, the dynamic goes in the opposite direction as well: gospel not only borrows from secular music but also shapes it. Religious music in the African American community has always been a wellspring of new musical devices, which are really new ways of responding to an often-hostile external world and finding strength in faith. As musicians filter the sounds of secular music down to the interplay of solo voice and choir, they give rise to new creative forces.

Consider Tribbett in front of his choir, a dynamo with a new and fascinating variety in his repertoire of vocal expression. Choir leaders, drawing on the cadences of African American preachers, have always exhorted their singers to greater fervor by jumping out of the melody to add words of encouragement like "Let me hear you sing it!" But Tribbett takes this technique to new extremes. Breaking into and out of song, he gives the whole line in advance, like a deacon "lining out" a hymn in the old days-or sometimes just cues the singers with an exclamation. He may carry on straight through the choir's line and explode into more commentary at the end-or not. Tribbett creates an original kind of tension in the relationship between soloist and group, and it's one that secular or R&B singers could draw on if they so chose.

The Tye Tribbett and G.A. album Victory Live! gives a taste of what's in store for the Hill audience. Tribbett reaches the highest level of intensity near the beginning with "I Want It All Back," an extraordinary rant directed at Lucifer by a newly converted soul. "If you want it all back, jump to your feet right now!" Tribbett yells at the beginning over a wall of rock guitar descending in a chromatic sequence of four notes. "Somebody SCREAM!" Then later he divides inspi-

rational quatrains with the choir women over a big funk beat:

Ladies, say it: you hit me hard (You hit me hard) Ow! (I should be knocked out.)
Unh! (Things I've been through) Don't even want to talk about. (Don't even want to talk about.)
You crossed the line (You crossed the line) this time (you violated me).
(I want revenge.) And I want everything back from A to Z!

It's a virtuoso performance, and if not everything else on the program reaches this kind of power, Tribbett is a master at keeping the energy level up. It should all be even more soultransporting to experience in person.

The African American gospel choir has proven a remarkably flexible instrument, adaptable to 100 years of changes in the music that surrounds it in the wider world. If you want to see where it's going next, or just to get yourself in line for some good old-fashioned sacred inspiration, Tye Tribbett and G.A. at Hill Auditorium offer a rare local opportunity to experience commercial black gospel music on a large scale.

—James M. Manheim

6 WEDNESDAY continued

sical (see 1 Friday listing), and cast members performs some favorites from the popular score. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 5 Tuesday. 7 p.m.

★Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council. Every Wednesday. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 699–8101.

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.

*"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Every Wednesday. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764. *Jazz Combo: EMU Music Department. Mark Pappas directs this music-student ensemble in a program of jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

★Concert Band: U-M School of Music. Rodney Dorsey leads this music-student ensemble in Strauss's "Koenigsmarsch," Holst's Suite in E-Flat, Carlos Surinach's Soleriana, Schubert's Little Symphony for Winds, Nikos Skalkottas's Suite from Nine Greek Dances, Tchaikovsky's Dance of Jesters, and U-M student composer Elizabeth Kelly's Jolt! 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wednesday. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.

Ryan Montbleau: The Blind Pig. Talented young singer-songwriter from Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose music blends folk, blues, rock, R&B, funk, and jazz flavors. "His guitar playing is reminiscent of a funk bass player channeling John Lee Hooker, and lyrically, the phrasing runs the gauntlet of a 70s Stevie Wonder, a 90s Jamiroquai, and a healthy helping of Robert Plant," says *The Noise*. Opening acts are Empty Orchestra, the stage name of the Flint exper-

imental country singer-songwriter Stephen Wisniewski, and Jacets, a Detroit indie pop-rock quartet. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. \$10 at the door only. 996–8555.

FILMS

MTF. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

7 THURSDAY

*Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. Every Thursday. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Fitness Fun," a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., U-M comparative politics and German studies professor Andrei Markovits presents "The Soccer World Cup of 2006 in Germany: Personal Account of a Soccer Professor" (December 7), an intergenerational Hanukkah program with songs and stories (December 14), a Current Events discussion group (December 21), and all invited to join a "Transition to 2007: Share Your Satisfactions, Hopes, and Wishes' (December 28). At 1 p.m., a workshop on "Navigating Medical, Legal, and Other Service Systems" (December 7), celebration of the lives of group members 85 & older (December 14), JFS social workers discusses the services offered by "Jewish Family Services" (December 21), and a screening of

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84 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 2006

Sunshine (December 28), Istvan Szabo's 1999 film about 3 generations of a 20th-century Hungarian Jewish family. The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the Senior Literary Group, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990

*Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop. December 7 & 14. Shaman Drum staff read some picture books for kids ages 2-6. 11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Thursday. All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner reuired. Noon-3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$4 (nonresidents, \$5). 769-5911.

*'Lady Lushes: Gender, Alcohol, and Medicine in 20th-Century America': Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Talk by U-M history lectur-er Michelle McClellan. Noon, 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537

★"Menuk Sudarsih (Indonesian Table)": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Indonesian speakers of all skill levels invited for conversation. Noon-1:30 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352

*"Unaffordable: The Price of Life and the Costs of New Cancer Therapies": U-M School of Public Health. Talk by U-M internal medicine professor Peter Ubel. 3 p.m., SPH II room M3024. Free.

*"Science and the Modern World": U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society **Program.** Lecture by Harvard University history of science professor Steven Shapin. 4–5:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 647–3766.

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*Mary Gaitskill: U-M English Department. See review, p. 73. Fiction reading by this U-M grad, an acclaimed fiction writer and essayist whose novel Veronica was nominated for a National Book Award and named one of 10 best books of 2005 by The New York Times, one of whose reviewers called it "a masterly examination of the relationship between surface and self, culture and fashion, time and memory 5 p.m., Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 615–3710.

*9/11 Documentaries: Ann Arbor Fair Vote Coalition. Screening of 2 documentaries TBA that claim to reveal the truth of the events surrounding 9/11. Followed by group discussion. 5:30 & 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 239-1877

"Stars Onstage: A Benefit College for Children": Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts Department. Performances by the WCC Jazz Orchestra and dance students from WCC and Spotlight Studio LLC in Pinckney. Proceeds benefit the children in the U-M Mott Hospital. 6 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Donation or a new, unwrapped gift.

*"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running. Every Thursday. All women invited to run a different course, 2-6 miles, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. Men also invited to run. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 369-2492, 569-5016.

*"Ethnomusicology: Music and the Cosmopolitan Native in the Philippines": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Talk by U-M music professor Christi-Anne Castro. 6:30 p.m., 2609 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0352.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 7, 9, 10, 15, & 16. This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16-and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Jeff Jackson. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team-that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top America Junior leagues (players ages 18–21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers, a team in the Junior A division of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$12 (students & children, \$6). 327-9251.

*Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday. All invited to develop publicspeaking skills and self-confidence in a warm, friendly environment. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings) 7-9 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 4205 Washtenaw (east of US-23). Free to visitors. Dues: \$35 semiannually (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$20). 678-2256.

*"Choosing the Right Supplement for You." December 7 & 14 (different locations). Talk by local holistic health care practitioner Malcolm Sickels. 7 p.m., Whole Foods Market (Dec. 7), 3135 Washtenaw, & Touchstone Cohousing meeting room (Dec. 14), 560 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland Plaza from eastbound Jackson). Free. Reservations requested.

*Huron Hills Lapidary Society. A club member TBA gives a slide-illustrated talk on unusual crystal forms. Also, bring your mystery rocks for Bill Barr, the group's resident mineralogist, to identify. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434–8517.

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. Every Thursday. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5.761–6691.

Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Every Thursday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7–10 p.m., Go Like the Wind Montessori School, 3549 Dixboro Ln. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions.

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dessert to share for a potluck. (No dinner this year.) Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. 7–8:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. \$5 (children, \$3) 741-0895

★"The Rouge: Photographs by Michael Kenna": U-M Museum of Art. December 7, 10, 14, & 17 See review, p. 71. Docent-led tours of Kenna's ac claimed set of moody, atmospheric photos of the Rouge auto plant. Note temporary new UMMA location. 7 p.m. (Dec. 7 & 14) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 17), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free 763-UMMA

*RC Singers: U-M Residential College. John Trotter directs this student choir in a varied program of classical choral music. 7 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon), \$4, 769-4324, 426-0241

*All Choirs Concert: Greenhills School. Benjamin Cohen conducts the school's vocal ensembles in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

*Winter Sing: Huron High School. Richard Ingram directs the student choirs in a program TBA 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free 994-2040

*Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School. Kenneth Westerman leads all 11 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program that includes a sea chantey, a Scottish folk song, Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy," Van Morrison's "Moon Dance," a Christmas medley, the annual favorite "Wintertime Aglow," and more. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

"You Can't Take It with You": U-M Theater Department. December 7-10. U-M theater professor Malcolm Tulip directs U-M drama students in Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's Pulitzer Prizewinning 1937 comedy about the classic American conflict between respectability and self-reliance. Hilarity ensues when a young woman brings home her fiance—the son of a Wall Street tycoon—to introduce him to her family, a collection of good-hearted eccentrics. 7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$16 & \$22 (students, \$9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call

*Flute Choir: EMU Music Department. Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free.

*Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music. U-M music professor Ellen Rowe directs the Jazz Ensemble in Andrew Bishop's "Falling Up," Charlie Parker's "Donna Lee," and Brooks Bowman's "East of the Sun," with music-student vocalist Gabriele Fazio. U-M music professor Dennis Wilson directs the Jazz Lab Ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington. Free. 764–0594.



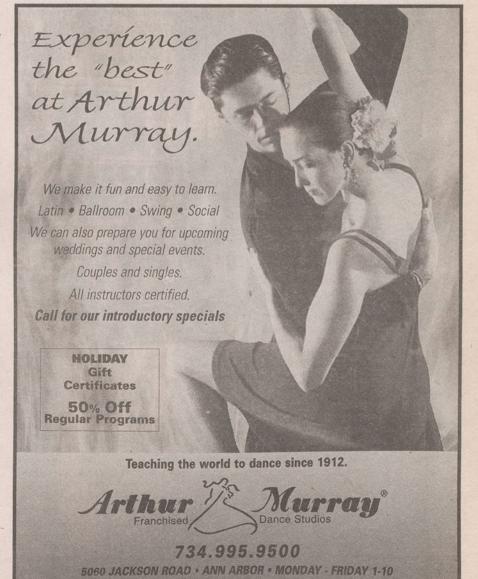
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7 THURSDAY continued

John Berry: The Ark. Rare club appearance by this country-pop star, a singer with a big, commanding voice and a repertoire of alternatively earnest and warmly sentimental songs about ordinary life's joys and sorrows. Tonight's show features Christmas sic, including tunes from Berry's popular CD O Holy Night Live. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

*"Forbidden Pleasures, Hopeless Witchcraft, and Illusions of Love": EMU Music Department Opera Workshop. Kathleen Segar directs EMU opera students in excerpts from Rossini's La Cenerentola, Menotti's Consul, Ward's Crucible, and Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro, Cosi Fan Tutte, and Die Zauberfloete. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. December 7 & 8. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only, 763-5460.

*"Posthumous": U-M Basement Arts Theater. December 7-9. Seth Anderson directs his one-man play about Posthumous, a character in Shakespeare's Cymbeline, as he works through the heartbreak of his wife's infidelity. Evening time TBA, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-6800

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. December 7-10 & 14-16. Richard Heberlein directs local actors in Steven Dietz's mind-bending, multilayered mystery-comedy about Matthew, a jealous actor who suspects his actress wife of having an affair with a play's director—or perhaps the trio are only rehearsing a play about an affair. Another twist in the plot suggests that the whole shebang is all in Matthe imagination-including the mysterious waitress who also might be a private eye. The cast includes Denene Pollock, Carl Ellison, Shannan McNally, David Andrews, and Lois Dowling. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance or at the door. 483-7345.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

'The Fantasticks': Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 7-9. This very funny Detroit-area comic is a highly animated performer known for his fast-paced, self-deprecating observational humor about such matters as dieting, exercise, and girlfriends. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 (Thurs.) & \$11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

Zion 1: The Blind Pig. Underground hip-hop duo from Oakland, California, known for its sharp-witted point of view, dexterous rhyming, and fresh, funky rhythms. The duo has an acclaimed new CD, *True &* Livin'. Opening act is The Grouch, a hip-hop MC also from Oakland. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors op 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

MTF. "Black Gold" (Marc & Nick Francis, 2006). See 5 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. "For Your Consideration" (Christopher Guest, 2006). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. "Halfaouine" (Ferid Boughediur, 1995). Critically acclaimed coming-ofage tale about a Tunisian boy torn between the warmth of the women's world he grew up in and the rough men's world he is ready to join. FREE. 764-0350. Angell Hall Auditorium D, 7 p.m.

8 FRIDAY

3rd Annual Holiday Open House: Seventh Street Artisans. Show and sale of paper goods, textiles, jewelry, stained glass, handmade soap, photography, and cards. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 509 N. Seventh St. Free admission, 994-0531.

★"Complying with the Law: The Case of Interna-tional Rights Treaties": U-M Institute for the Hu-manities. Talk by Harvard University government professor Beth Simmons. Noon-1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 1022. Free. 936-3518.

*The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center. Screening of Yiddish films TBA, followed by discus sion. All invited. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

*"Dharma, Death, Dispassion, Indifference, and Inclusion: Humble Expressions from an Oral Text from a Maharashtra Village": U-M Center for South Asian Studies. Talk by U-M Asian languages and cultures visiting scholar Lee Schlesinger. 5-6:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free 764-5261.

*Bike Maintenance": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program, December 8 & Ann Arbor police officer Kathy Vonk, a certified bike maintenance instructor, shows how to help your bike last longer and provide a safer, easier ride. Bring your bike; tools provided. Followed by socializing at Ann Arbor Brewing Company, 6–8 p.m., meet at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 214–0100.

★"Christmas Odyssey": Dexter United Methodist Church. December 8 & 9. All invited to tour Dexter resident Elsi Sly's enormous, and elaborate interac tive theater work, which the entire congregation took over a year to create. Groups of participants are es-corted between rooms in the church fellowship hall where costumed actors re-create biblical scenes in 15 different tableaux running from the Creation and the Fall to the Roman census that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the journey of the Magi. There's a final surprise in the sanctuary. Space limited, so get your tickets early. 6 & 7 p.m. (Dec. 8) and 1, 2, 6, & 7-8 p.m. (Dec. 9), DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free, but tickets required. Tickets available at elsi@hickorylea.com and 426–8251.

Holiday Sale: Yourist Pottery. Show and sale of functional, decorative, and sculptural ceramics by 10 local artists. Tonight's sale features wine and refreshments. 6-8 p.m. (Dec. 8), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 9), & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 10), Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

*Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to discuss A. H. Almaas's Brilliancy: The Essence of Intelligence. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757

*Richard Paul Evans: Arborland Borders. This best-selling novelist discusses Finding Noel, his heartwarming novel about 2 strangers who fall instantly in love and change each other's lives. 7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6948.

"Animanga Club for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library. All anime and manga fans in grades 6-12 are invited to share their enthusiasm for these Japa nese art forms, make an anime-related project, view excerpts from the anime classic Fullmetal Alchemist, the story of a young alchemist who seeks out a fabled Philosopher's Stone in hopes that it will undo the damage done to him and his younger brother. Free Pocky, a Japanese novelty snack popular with anime fans. 7-8:30 p.m., Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

*"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association. See 1 Friday. Tonight's ente ment includes Victorian caroling by the Arbor Consort, the Pioneer High School Loreleis vocal ensemble, and more TBA. 7–9 p.m.

"Redheaded Robbie's Christmas Story": Young People's Theater. December 8-10. Abby Knue directs local young actors in Bill Luttrell's musical about a school's Christmas pageant. A student is to be chosen to lead the show, but when Robbie's name is drawn from a hat, the other students groan-Robbie has a speech impediment. But with some help from friends, Robbie shows it's not how you speak but what you say that counts. 7 p.m., Copeland School theater, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Tickets \$10 (children, students, & seniors, \$7). 222-4006.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Notre Dame. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$12-\$17. 764-0247

Fourth Wishes: Kerrytown Concert House. This Ann Arbor-based quartet performs jazz influenced by the 50s West Coast "cool" sound of Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker, and Paul Desmond. Members are saxophonist Jon Margerum-Leys, pianist Tyler Driskill, bassist Eric Walters, and drummer Mike Morrison. 7:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance and at the door 769-2999.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. December 8-10. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a vondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets \$16 (\$10, seniors & students) available in advance at the Glass Slipper & the Dancer's Boutique and at the door. Group rates available. 475-3070.

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"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. December 8 & 9. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the First Presbyterian chancel and children's choirs, the church orchestra, and vocal soloists. The program begins with the procession of the boar's head, the bringing in of the Yule log, and wassail carols. It concludes with a lavishly lighted, fully staged Nativity pageant with sacred carols. Also, secular Renaissance dance and in-strumental, choral, and vocal music. The audience is invited to join in much of the singing. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. \$8 (seniors, students, & kids, \$3) in advance and (if available) at the door. 662-4466.

Urban Transport: Concordia University. Concordia jazz instructor Sean Dobbins directs Urban Transport, his Detroit-based jazz quintet whose repertoire includes over 50 original compositions inspired by bebop, swing, modal jazz, Afro-Cuban, Latin, smooth jazz, and R&B. Drummer Dobbins's bandmates include trombonist Vincent Chandler, saxophonist Dean Moore, bassist Josef Deas, and pianist Rick Roe. Opening act is the Concordia Jazz Ensemble. 8 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes. Tickets \$10.995-7300.

*Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Astronomy Department. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. 8–10 p.m., fifth floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.

"Leaf and Lizards Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 8-10 (different Michigan Union locations). Three days of contras and English dances with live music by the veteran Boston-area trio Latter Day Lizards. Today: contras and English dancing with Massachusetts caller Lisa Greenleaf. No partner needed. Bring clean, nonslip shoes with good support. 8 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room, 530 S. State. \$16.747-8138.

*Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. December 8 & 22. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's A Road to Self-Knowledge. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridge-way East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662-6398.

*EMU University and Chamber Choirs: EMU Music Department. Bradley Bloom directs these music-student ensembles in "Music to Celebrate Birth and Rebirth," a program of scasonal music of many style and origins. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti.

*Symphony Band: U-M School of Music. Michael Haithcock conducts this music-student ensemble in Mozart's Serenade in C Minor, Vincent Persichetti's Masquerade, Vittorio Giannini's Variations and Fugue, and Grainger's "Gum-Sucker's March,"
"Country Gardens," "Spoon River," and "Colonial Song." Also, music student Evan Premo is bass soloist in the world premiere of his Concertino.

8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.

"Thunderdump": Groove (University Activities Center). This U-M student ensemble blends choreography with vibrant, infectious, high-energy percussion on a wide range of unorthodox instruments, including garbage cans, brooms, newspapers, and even basketballs. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$6 available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"A Calypso Christmas": Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band (The Ark). Traditional Christmas music transformed into sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based per-cussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

Small Potatoes: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). See review, p. 81. Acclaimed Chicago-based husband-and-wife duo of Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, who are known for their tightly woven vocal harmonies and their proficiency on an array of instruments. Their repertoire is an eclectic, folksy mix of music from country & western, blues, and swing to Irish, along with originals in a mix of those idioms. "They're original, funny, energetic, profound, always respectful of the music but always daring to try new things," says Phee Sherline of the San Diego Folk Heritage Society. "When they get their hands on music, rhythmically and harmonically, it just takes off." Small Potatoes has an acclaimed new CD, Waltz of the Wallflowers.

8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door, 662-4536, 665-8558.

"The Exquisite Corpse": Dreamland Theater. December 8 & 9. Staged reading of local playwright Richard Ritter's play-in-progress about a dysfunctional family's toxic dynamics, exacerbated by the Christmas season. Ritter calls it "a surrealist Christmas tale for the concerned skeptic." Followed by a talkback with cast members. Cast: Koos Eisenberg, John Stuth, and Kate and Richard Ritter. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5 suggested donation. 657–2337.

*"Angels in America": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. RC drama students perform excerpts from Tony Kushner's sprawling, fantastic spectacle examining politics, religion, the AIDS plague, and the timeless questions of love, courage, and death. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thurs-

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Treasure Island": EMU Theater Department. See 2 Saturday, 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It with You": U-M Theater Department. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 1 Friday.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Califone: New Beat Happening. These veteran Chicago rockers are often credited as the pioneers of freak-folk, a blend of electronica and folk music influenced by Bill Frisell's late-90s Americanainflected music. Members are guitarist Tim Rutill, percussionist Ben Massarella, organist Joe Adamik and percussionist Jim Becker. Opening act is Benoit Pioulard, a Michigan-based singer-songwriter whose dreamy, hazily atmospheric songs have been compared to "a folk band playing in dense forest from forty yards away." 9 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Tickets \$15 (students, \$7) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. December 8 & 15. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and balboa, to DJs TBA. No partner necessary. Preceded at 9 p.m. by a beginners lesson. 9:45 p.m.-1 a.m., danceRevolution 603 E. William. \$5 (students with ID, \$3). 945-8428.

A2 Yoga Works. "Rize" (David LaChapelle, 2005). Documentary about krumping, a dance style originating in South Central L.A. that combines elements of hip-hop and a dance style called "clowning" and serves as an alternative to joining a street gang. FREE. 216-4006. A2 Yoga Works, 2450 W. Stadium, 8 p.m. Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. U-M Campus Chapel. "Good Night and Good Luck" (George Clooney, 2005). Critically acclaimed documentary about legendary CBS journalist Edward R. Murrow's opposition to senator Joseph McCarthy in his campaign to rid the country of communism. Followed by group discussion. FREE. 668-7421. Campus Chapel (1236 Washtenaw Ct.), 8 p.m. U-M Center for Japanese Studies Asian Film Fridays, "Attack the Gas Station" (Kim Sang-Jin, 1999). Comedy about 4 Korean youths who rob a gas station twice in the same night. Korean, subtitles. FREE. 764-6307. 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University, noon

9 SATURDAY

*Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum. All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 9 & 10. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663-0362



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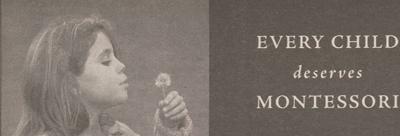




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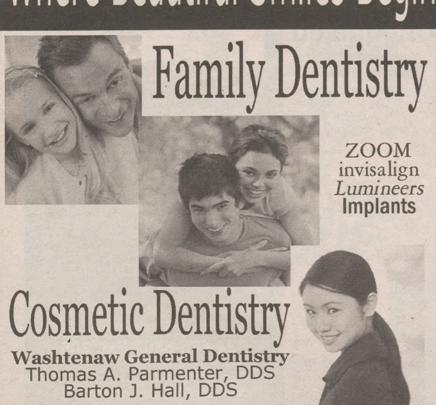
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Where Beautiful Smiles Begin



734-434-6020 3075 W. Clark Rd.- 1/2 mile E of US 23 Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. December 9 & 10. Show and sale of beeswax and multicolored candles, menorahs, mezuzahs, pottery, jewelry, books, children's items, gift wrap, cards, and items made by local artists and imported from Israel. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. (Dec. 9) & 3:30–7:30 p.m. (Dec. 10), Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.

"13th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. A bazaar featuring hundreds of peanut blossoms, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, macaroons, festively decorated sugar cookies, and lots more. Select your own or prepackaged sets. Proceeds benefit the church's mission work. 9–11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 213–2330.

Huron Gun Collectors. December 9 & 10. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.—4 p.m. (Dec. 9) & 9 a.m.—3 p.m. (Dec. 10), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (810) 227–1637.

★Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. December 9 & 12. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. 10 a.m.—noon (Dec. 9) & 3–5 p.m. (Dec. 12), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.

"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage." December 9, 16, & 23. Sale of a wide range of unique Nepalese gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business Of Global Interest. "Imagine a yak bell in your Christmas stocking," O'Neal suggests. 10 a.m.—4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 369–3107.

"Creature Crafts from Nature": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WC-PARC naturalist Faye Stoner shows kids how to make a teasel mouse, milkweed swan, and the classic pine cone reindeer. 10–11:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. Preregistration required. \$4. Vehicle entrance fees: \$4/day (\$2 for seniors age 62 & over), \$20/year. 971–6337.

★Santa Claus: Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted chestnuts, eggnog, and cider for all in attendance. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.

★"Treasure Trail to Santa": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. All children age 12 & under invited to pick up a "treasure map" at Carol's Hallmark and visit shopping center merchants to receive goodies. Also, horse-drawn carriage rides and photos with Santa. 10 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Saline Shopping Center, 549 E. Michigan, Saline. Free. 429—4494.

★Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Activities begin with the Fred Schmid Memorial Holiday Light Parade (10:30 a.m.), a downtown parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. Also, horse-drawn carriage rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day, and Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Petting zoo. Food for sale. The festival kicks off at 7 p.m. on December 8 with a tree lighting ceremony and carol singing by choirs from Peace Lutheran and Dexter United Methodist churches. It concludes on Sunday with a brunch with Santa at a location TBA. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., gazebo downtown, near Monument Park, Dexter Free admission. 426–0887.

★Mister Laurence: Nicola's Books. Local kiddierocker Mister Laurence celebrates the release of his new CD, Holiday Stocking, with a concert of original and classic Christmas songs. 11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.

Ralph's World: The Ark. Family show by Ralph Covert, the former frontman of the Chicago indie rock band the Bad Examples. He has released 6 acclaimed CDs of energetic kiddie rock, including the recent Green Gorilla, Monster, and Me, which is highlighted by an irresistible cover of Ray Stevens's "Guitarzan" and a Ramones-style paean to chores, "I Don't Wanna." 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

"A Christmas Carol": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids" Se-

ries). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its new musical adaptation of Dickens's Christmas classic. 11 a.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12 (MTF members, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

"Treasure Island": EMU Theater Department. See 2 Saturday. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

★'Detoxification': Whole Foods Market. Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.

"Holiday Studio Sale." Show and sale of paintings, mosaics, ceramics, and handmade books by local artists. The works are previewed in the Matrix gallery window, 111 South Fourth Avenue. Noon-6 p.m., 623 & 627 Gott St. Free admission. 327–3727.

"Christmas at the Farmhouse": Rentschler Farm Museum (Saline Area Historical Society). December 9 & 10. A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas at this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum, currently festooned in 30s-style holiday decorations. Docents in each farmhouse room discuss period furnishings and holiday preparations. Nibbles, and a gift shop stocked with railroad caps, trivets, local history books and booklets, rag rugs, collectibles, etched mugs, cake plates, bean soup mix, and more. Noon-4 p.m. (Dec. 9) & 1–5 p.m. (Dec. 10), Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan, Saline. Donation. 769–2219.

*"The Poetics of Memory": U-M Institute of Historical Studies. Screening of *Ivanovo Detstvo [Ivan's Childhood]*, Andrei Tarkovsky's 1962 classic, set during WW II, about a 12-year-old Russian boy determined to fight on the front lines after his parents are killed by the invading Germans. Followed by discussion. *Noon*, 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 764–6305.

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. December 9, 10, 16, 17, & 23. Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. 1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. \$7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission, 995–5439.

"Winter Solstice Walk": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids accompanied by an adult are invited to take a hike and do hands-on activities. Snack. 1–4 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. \$6 per person (members, \$4.50). Preregistration required. 998–7061.

Traditional Christmas Program: Saline Community Education. Local schoolchildren recreate a 30s-style holiday variety show that includes performances of skits, poems, readings, songs, and recitations. 1, 4, & 7 p.m., Weber Blaess One Room School, 525 Woodland Dr., Saline. Tickets \$10 (students & children, \$5) in advance only at Saline Community Education. 429–8020.

"Leaf and Lizards Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. See 8 Friday. To-day: advanced English dances (1–3 p.m.) with Chicago caller Tom Senior and English dances (3:30–5:30 p.m.) and contras (3:30–5:30 p.m. & 8–11:30 p.m.) with Massachusetts caller Lisa Greenleaf. The evening session begins with a half hour of swing dancing. I p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. \$9 (each afternoon session) \$15 (both afternoon sessions), & \$18 (evening session). 747–8138.

"Independent America": Think Local First. Screening of Heather Hughes and Gus Hosein's 2006 documentary about 2 journalists who travel around the country and shop only at independently owned businesses. Free doughnuts & other snacks. Preceded at 1:30 p.m. by a chance to enter a Buy Local Week contest. 2–2:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. \$12 donation at the door only. 730–6905.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Delaware State. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22. 764–0247.

★Elizabeth Kostova: Arborland Borders. This U-M grad discusses *The Historian*, her best-selling debut novel, now out in paperback, about a scholar's daughter who discovers an ominous book that leads her on a quest for the person who inspired the Dracula tales. Kostova also appears at Nicola's (see 16 Saturday listing). Also, signing. 2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.

"Make Your Own Holiday Yule Log": Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods bakers Sarah Henderson and Mike Going lead a session of making this baked treat. Participants take their log home. 2-4 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. \$25. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.

★"Blues Band Showcase": Ann Arbor Music Center. AAMC Blues Band student musicians perform postwar blues standards by Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Elmore James, John Lee Hooker, and others. 5:30–7:30 p.m., Tap Room Annex, 205 W. Michigan. Free, 665–0375.

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Being There

Zen garden

"I like to watch." This is the prophetic mantra uttered by a man named Chauncey Gardiner (Peter Sellers). When Gardiner is befriended by socialite Eve Rand (Shirley MacLaine) after a minor traffic accident, he becomes the beloved friend and confidant of her dying husband, Benjamin (Melvyn Douglas). Since Benjamin Rand, a multiindustrialist and self-proclaimed "kingmaker," pulls the strings of the incompetent President Bobby (Jack Warden), Gardiner is immediately thrust into the role of presidential advisor. But Chauncey Gardiner is really Chance the gardener-a man-child cast adrift when the estate that housed him closed after its wealthy owner died. Only two things exist in Chance's peanut-sized brain: TV and gardening. According to the maid who raised him, Chance is "dumb as a jackass," but his compulsion to explain everything from national economic policy to the larger questions of life in terms of gardening fuels his meteoric rise in the world of high society and politics.

This absurdity is the heart of director Hal Ashby's 1979 film Being There. Emptyheadedness is mistaken for a Zen-like genius, because people all see in Chance an idealized version of themselves. At a party for the Russian ambassador, when he giggles at the sound of a joke told in Russian, he is rumored to speak seven languages. And because he utters short sentences between long silences, he's deemed wise.

But it's really his wardrobe that gets him



accepted as a fellow member of the elite. His clothes are very dignified. When he walks up to a cop on the street and tells him to water a tree that's dying, the cop looks at Chance, assumes that he is a big shot, and meekly agrees. If I'd done that, I'd have ended up in jail. No one knows his clothes are hand-me-downs.

I also love how he's always looking for a TV to match the remote control he carries. In one of the great moments in comedy history, a gang of taunting street youths doesn't fall for his childish gardening rhetoric and threatens him with a knife; he points his remote control at them and tries to change channels. Melvyn Douglas, who won a supporting-actor Academy Award for his performance in Being There, died shortly after it was released. Peter Sellers, who manages to invest the idiotic Chance with a surprising poetic dignity, was nominated for best actor.

Being There is at the Michigan Theater on Monday, December 11.

—Dan Moray

*Helen Kay Polaski: Nicola's Books. This Michigan writer discusses her new book Classic Christmas: True Stories of Holiday Cheer and Goodwill. Also, signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.

*Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts: Barnes & Noble. Performance by an AASPA jazz ensemble. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

*"Hike to Little Independence Lake": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through mud and poison sumac. Wear boots that can get sog-Sy. 2 p.m., Independence Lake County Park boat launch, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. Preregistration required. Free. Vehicle entrance fees: \$4/day (\$2 for seniors age 62) & over), \$20/year. 971-6337.

*Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library. This acclaimed 12-member, 74-bell Detroit-area handbell ensemble returns for its very popular annual program of sacred, secular, and seasonal pieces, including pop, jazz, and hymn tunes. The performance includes some choreography and discussion of the music and its history. Space limited; first come, first seated. 2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 8 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

*Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this music-student vocal and instrumental ensemble in J. S. Bach's Violin and Harpsichord Sonata, Telemann's Paris Quartets, Couperin's Les Nations, and choral works by Hans Leo Hassler, Schuetz, Byrd, and Palestrina. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Organ Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

'Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa. Accompanists are AASO tubaist Carol Jantsch and AASO percussionist Jim Lancioni and pianist Lori Zupan. WAAM radio host Lucy Ann Lance emcees. Refreshments follow the concert. 4-5 P.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 (children 12 & under, \$5; families, \$30; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO Office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994–4801.

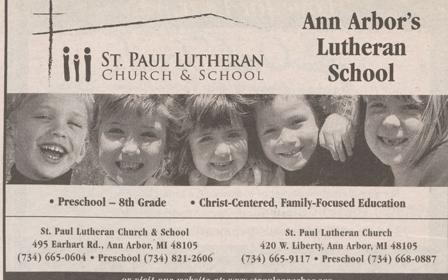
★"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV series. Includes episodes of Nanoha A's (a series about a magical spacegirl whose close friend is on trial), Higurashi no Naku Koro (a series about a deadly secret hidden in a bucolic rural landscape), Zero no Tsukaima (a series about a budding magician who conjures up an odd familiar), Gakuen Heaven (a series about a university misfit), and Ouran High School Host Club (a series about another university misfit). Raffle. No one under 18 admitted without an adult. 4 p.m.-midnight, MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free.

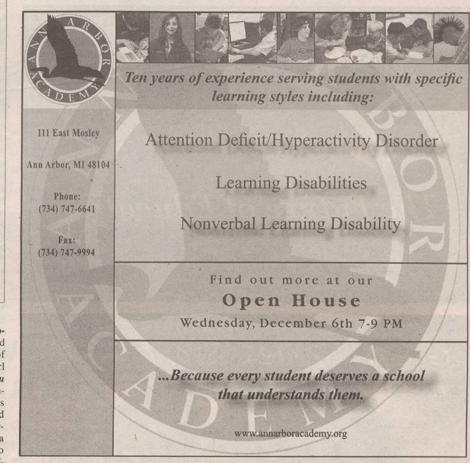
"Family Latke Hop": Jewish Community Center. Dinner, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle-lighting ceremony. 6-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Admission: \$12 (kids, \$6) for nonmembers, \$10 (kids, \$5) for members. Reservations requested. 971-0990.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Develop-ment Program. See 7 Thursday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Traverse City North Stars of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"Toyland": County Connection Sweet Adelines. Lynne Erskine Peirce directs this 40-voice local Sweet Adelines women's chorus in a song-and-dance revue featuring songs with toy-related and childhood themes. Also, performances by the 2006 Pioneer District champion men's quartet Fermata Nowhere, the 2006 Young Women in Harmony international quartet champion Footnotes, and 2 County Connection quartets, A la Carte and Harmony 4 Fun. 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12; groups of 10 or more, \$10 each) in advance and at the door. 480–8843.

Tye Tribbett and G.A.: Greater Light Temple. See review, p. 84. The acclaimed young gospel singer-songwriter from Camden, New Jersey, performs an energetic, infectiously hook-laden brand of contemplations of the contemplation of the contemp porary gospel that draws on elements of pop, rock, hip-hop, and jazz. One fan calls it "music that you can't possibly sit down to." Accompanied by the G.A. (Greater Anointing) choir, Tribbett is backed by his band SoundCheck. 7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tick-





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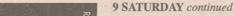
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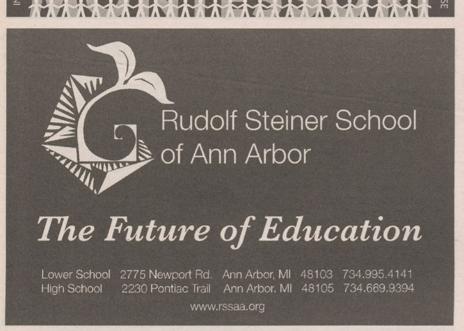
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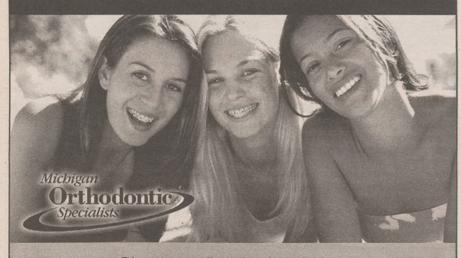
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"Redheaded Robbie's Christmas Story": Young People's Theater. See 8 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

2006 Amy Fedel Memorial Concert: Amy and Lisa Fund. Acoustic pop-folk originals and classics by Mike Fedel & Friends, a local band led by singer-guitarist Fedel that is joined tonight by various guest performers. The show includes a "sing-along jukebox," in which the audience selects from a list of songs to sing along with the band, and it begins with a 20-minute children's set by Loren Greenawalt, aka Mister G. Held in memory of Fedel's daughter Amy, an 8-year-old who was killed in 1998 when the family's van was hit by a drunk driver, and to celebrate the recovery of her sister, Lisa Fedel. A benefit for the Michigan Brain Injury Association and the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$10 (kids, \$3) suggested donation. 998-0360.

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. See 8 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Oriental Potentate's Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. An elegant evening of 19th-century dances, including waltzes, two steps, and quadrilles, with live music by Jackson's Quadrille Band. Vintage attire (see vintagedance.com/dress-rag.htm) encouraged but not required. Dancers of all abilities welcome. Refreshments. Also, \$5 pre-ball workshops (free for those attending the ball), 11:30–1:30 & 1:45–3 p.m: 7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange Hall, Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). \$25. Preregistration required. 769–0041.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$4.822–2120.

"Baroque for the Holidays": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Ben Cohen leads this 24-member local a cappella chorus in a program that includes Bach's Cantata no. 196, Vivaldi's Gloria, and holiday music. 8 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard at Eastover. Tickets \$15 (seniors & students, \$10) at the door only. 741-7451, 665-7823.

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of Bluegrass Unlimited magazine. Their shows blend topnotch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including Live and Unrehearsed, a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. \$11 (students, seniors, & members, \$10) at the door only. 761–1451.

"Off the Grid": Warren Miller Films (Michigan Theater Foundation). Rescheduled from November 18. Showing of the latest family-oriented ski adventure film produced and narrated by Warren Miller. Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making ski adventure films for 56 years. He's a major star on the West Coast, where his films draw packed houses for weeklong runs, and the annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. All attendees receive 2-for-1 lift tickets for Boyne Mountain and Mount Holly, and a free lift ticket for Shanty Creek. Note: Tickets purchased for the November 18 show will be honored. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$15 (students & kids under 12. \$11) in advance at the Michigan Theater, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS, or (248) 645–6666.

"The Exquisite Corpse": Dreamland Theater. See 8 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It with You": U-M Theater Department. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 2 Saturday. 8–9:30 p.m.

Rob Little: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

M-F

M-Flicks. "Grosse Pointe Blank" (George Armitage, 1997). Comedy-thriller about a hit man sent on a job where, coincidentally, his high school reunion is taking place. John Cusack, Minnie Driver, Alan Arkin. FREE, but ticket required. 763–1107. Nat. Sci., 8 p.m. Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. U-M Institute of Historical Studies. "Ivanovo Detstvo [Ivan's Childhood]" (Andrei Tarkovsky, 1962) See Events listing above. 1014 Tisch Hall, noon. Warren Miller Films. "Off the Grid" (Warren Miller, 2006). See Events listing above. Mich., 8 p.m.

10 SUNDAY

"Art in the Barn." Show and sale of hand-made items from 20 local artists, including jewelry, painting, sculpture, clothing, ornaments, and more. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., 416 W. Huron (in the Wild Swan Theater-complex). Free admission. 662–8020.

★Nature's Expressions. Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. Includes a complete fossil skeleton of a 9-foot, 100,000-year-old cave bear. Features a variety of Christmas gifts. II a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994–3048.

Holiday Gift Art Show. Show and sale of artworks by local artists Esther Kirschenbaum, Annette Baron, and Barbara Brown. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2559 Blueberry Lane. Free Admission. 996–1420.

*"Ceremony of Candles": Northside Community Church. A program of festive seasonal music by the church's chancel and bell choirs, and an ensemble that includes violinists Carol Evans and Lucia Kern, violist John Madison, cellist Sarah Cleveland, timpanist Al Clark, and pianist Kathryn Goodson. Donations accepted to benefit SafeHouse, a local refuge for victims of domestic violence. Il am., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.

★"Taste of Hanukkah": Whole Foods Market, A chance to sample a range of holiday treats. Q&A with staff members. Noon-4 p.m., Whole Foods Market, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975-4500.

★Solo and Ensemble Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Over 100 students ages 6–18 perform solo and in various small ensembles. Program TBA. Noon-6 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. Donations appreciated. 995–4625.

Michigan Marching Band: U-M School of Music. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. 12:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$10 (kids 11 & younger, \$3) in advance at Revelli Hall, 350 E. Hoover, and at the door. 764–0594.

Israeli Dancing: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society/Reconstructionist Havurah. Family-oriented program featuring Israeli dancing to a live band TBA and a delicious Middle Eastern lunch. 12:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (family, \$20). 973–9875.

"Leaf and Lizards Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance, See 8 Friday. To-day: contras and English dances with Massachusetts caller Lisa Greenleaf. The program begins with a half hour of couple dancing. 12:30 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom, 530 S. State. \$14.747-8138.

*"Ann Arbor Observed: Selections from Then and Now": Ann Arbor District Library "Sunday Edition." Local historian Grace Shackman reads from and discusses this new collection of her popular Observer stories about a particular landmark, structure, personality, organization, or business from Ann Arbor's past. Signing. Copies of the book available for purchase. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4200.

★Friends of Four-Hand Piano. Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.

★Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.

★"7th Annual Tuba Christmas." All invited to bring an instrument and a wire stand to join (or just listen to) around 40 players in an outdoor performance of holiday carols "heard as never before," says an organizer, on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones,

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and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$10). Dress warmly. 2–4 p.m., S. State at North University. Free (performers,

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 8 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Redheaded Robbie's Christmas Story": Young People's Theater. See 8 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m. "Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thurs-

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Com-

pany. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"You Can't Take It with You": U-M Theater Department. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Peaceful Warrior": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Screening of Victor Salva's 2006 film about a philosophical gas station attendant who changes the life of a high school gymnast. Preceded by tea and guided meditation. 3 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. \$10.945–8602.

*Nicholas Delbanco: U-M Museum of Art. This novelist, essayist, and U-M English professor dis-cusses a lifetime of visiting museums in this country and in Europe. 3 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764–0395.

*"Music of the Season": Dexter Community Band/Dexter Community Orchestra. Double bill. Bill Gourley directs the band in a program of seasonal music TBA. Don Parrish conducts the orchestra in Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on "Greensleeves," Bizet's L'Arlesienne Suite, and Leroy Anderson's Suite of Carols for Brass Choir. Also, the 2 ensembles join forces to perform holiday music. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker) Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426-2734, 355-0725.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Thursday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Traverse City North Stars of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

*Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team, which finished 7th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2006–2007 season with an intrasquad meet. 4 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

19th Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Bonnie Kidd conducts 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers in a program that includes settings of texts by Robert Frost and A. A. Milne, traditional works in Latin, folk songs from Israel and the West Indies, and traditional and contemporary songs that celebrate the winter, Hanukkah, and Christmas. 4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) at the door only. 996-4404.

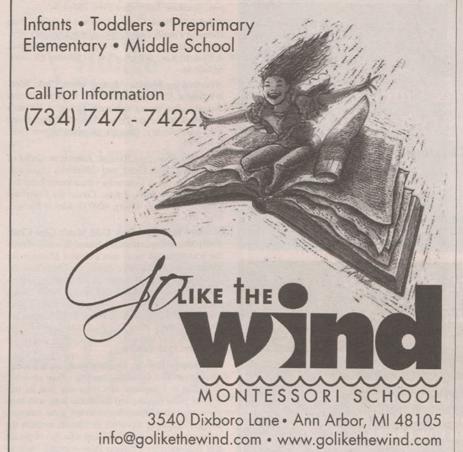
"Chords and Cuisine Cabaret Show": Huron Val-ley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Paul Hanson directs the 60-voice Harmonizers men's barbershop chorus, in a program of 4-part a cappella holiday tunes and other songs TBA. Also, guest performances by 2 Harmonizers quartets, **Pulse** and **Sound Effect.** Pasta dinner. 4 p.m., Stoney Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stoney Creek R. T. Lee Sound Stoney Creek R. Lee Sound Stoney Creek R. T. Le Tickets \$20 in advance and at the door. 769-1463.

Gabriel Bolkosky: Kerrytown Concert House. This local violinist, director of the Phoenix Ensemble, is joined by local pianist Michele Cooker to perform Prokofiev's anguished, gloomy Sonata in F Minor, and Bolkosky performs jazz, classical, and folk selections with local singer-guitarist San Slomovits. 4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10, \$15, & \$25 in advance and at the door. 769–2999.

*Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Michael Udow directs this music-student ensemble in Nexus Percussion member Russell Hartenberger's In-Nexus Percussion member Russell Hartenberger's Invisible Proverbs and Telisi Odyssey, Udow's Black Shogun II and Apparition, and Contrapunctus no. 9 from J. S. Bach's Art of the Fugue. Guest performers are composer Hartenberger, retired Philadelphia Orchestra percussionist Alan Abel, and DSO percussionist Ian Ding. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.

*Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music. Small ensemble performances by U-M faculty. Violinist Yehonatan Berick, clarineits Deborah Chodacki, cellist Anthony Elliott, and pianist Christopher Harding perform Messiaen's monumental *Quartet for the End of Time*, a 1940 work composed in a German prison camp and premiered in front of 5,000 fellow prisoners. Also, soprano Carmen Pelton, flutst Amy Porter, and pianist Martin Katz perform Schuler ben's offertory "Totus in corde langueo," and Pelton joins clarinetist Fred Ormand and pianist Martin Katz

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for Frank Martin's well-loved Trois Chants de Noel, 4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

*Rainbow Book Club. All invited to discuss Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, Alison Bechdel's critically acclaimed memoir in a graphic novel format. 4:30-6:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036

*Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss 2 murder mysteries that take place during wartime, Christopher Fowler's Full Dark House and Peter Lovesey's Rough Sider. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769-2149.

★Student Showcase Recital: American Guild of Organists. U-M, EMU, and Concordia organ students let 'er rip on Concordia's thunderous Schlicker organ. Program TBA. 7 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.

Measure for Measure & U-M Men's Glee Club: EMU Music Department. Leonard Riccinto directs the accomplished local men's chorus Measure for Measure and Paul Rardin directs the Glee Club, the 2nd-oldest collegiate chorus in the country, in programs of seasonal secular and sacred choral music The 2 choruses join forces to sing Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria." 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. \$18 (seniors, \$14; students & kids under 12, \$7) in advance and at the door. 487–1221, 487–2282.

33rd Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Universalist Church. "Smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, turn out every year for this feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure Tonight's lineup of top-notch performers includes the nationally renowned husband-and-wife duo of pianist Bill Bolcom (also a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer) and mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, veteran Detroit blues pianist Bob Seeley, local ragtime pianist John Remmers, acclaimed ragtime historian Mike Montgomery, recent U-M grad Kent "Cannonball" Eshelman, and others. 7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets \$15 in advance at Nicola's Books and at the door, 665-6158.

Jay Stielstra: The Ark. An evening of country songs by this former high school history teacher who has been a mainstay of the local folk scene since the early 70s. Best known these days as the author of several popular Michigan-based folk musicals, he's also written a slew of durable folk-style country songs about love and friendships lost and found, as well as several pointed political and topical songs 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★"Sex Wars and Other Historical Fictions": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk by Vassar College Jewish and Hispanic studies professor Andrew Bush. 7:45–9:15 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-9897

"Winter Wonderland": U-M Ballroom Dancers. Dance party with ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. All couples and singles invited. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8-11 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. \$10 (members, \$5). 763-6984.

★"Uncle Vanya": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. RC drama students perform scenes from this Chekhovian masterpiece, a richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness-from love, achievement, or nature-at various stages of life. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sun-

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sunday. 9:30

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sunday. 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Black Gold" (Marc & Nick Francis, 2006). See 5 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA.

II MONDAY

Social Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. 12:45-3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$1.769-5911.

*"Stress Management": U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by Peaceful Dragon School

president Wasentha Young. 4:30-6 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty, Free. Preregistration requested. 998-7080.

*"A Streetcar Named Deseo": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. University of Southern California English professor David Roman discusses how Mexican-born actor Anthony Quinn got to replace Marlon Brando in the original Broadway production of Tennessee Williams's A Streetcar Named Desire. 5-7 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 764-9537.

★The Barony of Cynnabar. Every Monday except December 4 & 25. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org

★"Mill Creek Revealed": Huron Valley Watershed Council. Talk by watershed ecologist Jo Latimer. 7 p.m., Sylvan Twp. Hall, 18027 Old US 12 Chelsea. Free. 769-5123.

*"Missing the Holiday Cheer?": Whole Foods Market. Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discuss natural remedies for depression. 7-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom, 3135 Washenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

*RC Chamber Players: U-M Residential College. Katri Ervamaa directs RC students in a varied program of chamber works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Khachaturian, Monteverdi, Poulenc, Rutter, U-M music professor Evan Chambers, and others. 7 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

*Cabaret Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. U-M students from Joan Morris's cabaret performance class perform songs by Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael, Harold Arlen, Pulitzer Prize-winning lo-cal composer William Bolcom, and others. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-2999.

*Zhihua Tang. Recital by this local pianist, who is accompanied by violinist Haixin Wu. The program includes works by Mozart, Brahms, Ravel, and Liszt. 8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton

Stewart Francke: The Ark. Thoughtful, well-crafted contemporary folk-rock songs by this veteran Detroit singer-songwriter, who was named Outstanding Pop Act at the 2002 Detroit Music Awards. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets: and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Being There" (Hal Ashby, 1979). See review, p. 89. Black comedy about a childlike displaced gardener elevated to pow er by people who take him for a genius. Part of the "Comic Masters" series. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6) 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m. Other Michian Theater films TBA. U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies. "Tycoon" (Pavel Lounguine, 2003). In 1988, an idealistic young academic convinces 4 brilliant friends to abandon their science studies in favor of the shady world of post-Soviet business. Based on the life of Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky. The highest-grossing domestic film in Russian history. Russian, subtitles. Free. 764–0351. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 7 p.m. U-M Max Kade Film Screenings. "Der Blutige Pfad Gottes" (Troy Duffy, 1999). German-language version of *The Boondock Saints*, a thriller about 2 Irish Catholic brothers in Boston, treated as heroes when they accidentally kill mafia thugs, decide they have a calling from God, and start knocking off mafia members one by one. Willem Dafoe, Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus. German, subtitles. Free. 764-5018. Max Kade house (Baits II, 1440 Hubbard, North Campus),

12 TUESDAY

Distinguished Lecture Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program. Second in a series of 9 monthly lectures by different U-M scholars. Open to all age 55 & older. Today: U-M Health System cultural health program admini trative director Gloria Edwards discusses "Meeting the Medical Needs of a Culturally Diverse Environment." Other topics in this extremely varied series range from FDR's pre-WW II foreign policy to global warming. 10-11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. \$50 (LIR members, \$35) for the 9-lecture series, \$25 (LIR members, \$10) per lecture. LIR memberships are \$15 a year.

*"Rapture, Religious Ecstatics, and Deep Listeners": U-M Musicology Department. U-M music professor Judith Becker discusses her on-going research on "deep listeners" and religious ecstatics using GSR deep-bra 4 p.m., 1 Free. 764 *"Detro Culture. collective plores A relations station in Facing Id types fro ects. Par 6-7:30 p *"Meet Volksspo club's fu stroll aro Canoe L Pkwy.), 3

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ing GSR (galvanic skin response), a measure of deep-brain emotional response to musical listening. 4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington. Free. 764-0594.

★"Detroit Unleaded": U-M Program in American Culture. Screening of this film created by Other, a collective of Detroit-area Arab artists. The film ex-plores Arab American and African American racial relations within the context of an Arab-owned gas station in Detroit. Also, presentation of segments of Facing Identity, an installation exploring Arab stereotypes from the popular media, and other Other projects. Part of the U-M Citizenship Theme Year. 6–7:30 p.m., G115 Angell Hall. Free. 763–1460.

*"Meet and Walk": Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club. All invited to learn about the club's future walking excursions. Followed by a stroll around Gallup Park. 7–8:30 p.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery meeting room (west side of Huron Pkwy.), 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 649–5024.

*Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. Screenings of episodes from the popular science-fiction TV show Serenity and the show that inspired it, Firefly, Pizza. 7-9 p.m., Duderstadt Center Videoconference Suite, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-2553.

*Ann Arbor Checkers and Draughts Society. December 12 & 26. Adults invited to play checkers, known as draughts in England. Also, participants can try to solve tricky end-of-game brainteasers. 6:30 p.m., downtown cafe TBA. Free. 827-0328.

*"From Fatigue to Fabulous": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone. 7-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

★U-M Aquarium Society. All invited to join a dis cussion of upcoming programs and chat about each other's aquaria. 7 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room. Free. 274–1722.

*"The General": Ann Arbor District Library. Screening of Buster Keaton's classic 1927 silent comedy-adventure about a clownish Confederate engineer pursuing Union spies who made off with his locomotive. The film concludes with a spectacular chase sequence that includes the collapse of a bridge as the train crosses it. With an original score performed live by the eclectic Kalamazoo-based ensemble Blue Dahlia. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

*"Cross-Country Ski Tripping": Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. Club trip leaders discuss upcoming trips. Also, a 10-minute clinic comparing the classic diagonal stride and skating techniques. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House. Free. 662-SKIS.

"Holiday Concert": The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school professor emeritus Willis Patterson directs an ecumenical choir of local church members in a program TBA. 7:30 P.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free admission. 663-3800.

Dr. John: The Ark. December 12 & 13. Mac "Dr. John" Rebennack is a prolific songwriter with a voice at once silken and gravelly, but he is best known as the reigning master of New Orleans-style piano. His blend of rock 'n' roll, R&B, gospel, boogie, blues, and funk is rooted in a long tradition shaped by the likes of Fats Domino, Huey Smith, and Dr. John's mentor, Roy "Professor Longhair" Byrd. He established his reputation among musicians as a session player in the 50s and 60s before gaining his own audience through his adopted persona as "Dr. John, the Night Tripper." This is his first Ann Arbor appearance since 1998. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

Ann Arbor District Library. "The General" (Buster Keaton, 1927). See Events listing above. FREE. 327-4560. AADL multipurpose room (343 S. Fifth Ave. at William), 7-8:30 p.m. Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

13 WEDNESDAY

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. December 13-17. This award-winning local children's theater presents local playwright Jeff Duncan's musical adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic about the transformation of crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge after visits by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. Live music by pianist Jason Bednarz and a trumpet player TBA. Cast: Jeff Duncan, Sandy Ryder, Theresa Pe-



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94 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER , December 2006,

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St. Andrew's Festival of Lessons and Carols

The real meaning of Christmas

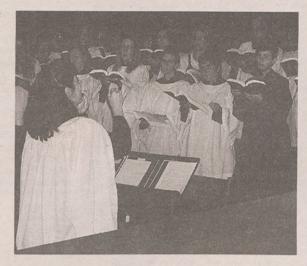
What's the real meaning of Christmas? It's Luke 2:10-14: "And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the

Lord.' . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'

That's the real meaning of Christmas: the birth of a savior and the promise of eternal salvation. Yet in these postcapitalist times, when purchasing vast quantities of worthless junk to relieve seasonally affected emotional disorders is socially compulsory, contemporary Christmas celebrations sometime seem utterly incommensurate with the holiday's spiritual significance. Jesus would weep.

And the situation's just as bad in contemporary Christmas music. Consider some of postwar America's contributions to that magnificent canon. Instead of another Christmas Oratorio or Messiah, we get "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Bach and Handel would weep.

St. Andrew's, the Episcopal church on Division just north of Huron, knows the real meaning of Christmas. In its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols-held this year on Sunday, December 17-the St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs, the St. Dunstan's Bell Choir, and, at appropriate points, the entire congregation become wholehearted par-



ticipants in a communal retelling of the story of salvation through scriptural readings and carols from the rich repertoire of Anglican sacred music.

Based on a 120-year-old sequence mixing the intimate with the exalted and the meditative with the exultant, St. Andrew's service will start at 4 p.m.—just in time for December's soft, gray dusk—with a treble soloist leading a procession of choristers who sing the haunting "Once in Royal David's City." Among other carols in the service, the junior choir will perform Handel's glorious "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God," the bell choir will perform the mysterious "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and everyone together will perform Vaughan Williams's marvelous "Sussex Carol."

When so many churches in Ann Arbor today seem to be scaling back on sacred music programs, it's good to know that St. Andrew's remembers the real meaning of Christmas. First Baptist and First Presbyterian, which present their Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, are in this exemplary

-James Leonard

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Disaster" (Roy T. Wood, 2005). December 13 & 14. Animated spoof of disaster movies featuring a plucky spaceman determined to save the Earth from a killer planetoid. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Keeping Mum" (Niall Johnson, 2005). December 13 & 14. Dark British comedy about a seemingly angelic old-lady murderess who cleverly eludes suspicion. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

14 THURSDAY

★"Who Could Ask for Anything More? A Developmental Approach to Acquiring Rhythmic Skill: ment, Memory, and Notation": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Talk by EMU piano profes-House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 994-9198

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

*"Only in Ann Arbor: Sexual Health for Ages 60+": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Talks by U-M Sex Matters Clinic for Older Adults director Kristen Tyszkowski and social work therapists Sally Kope and Sallie Foley, who writes the "Modern Love" column for AARP: The Magazine. Noon-1:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998-9353

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of arranging flowers using the techniques of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. I p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). \$10 (members, \$5) materials fee. (248) 685-7696

*"Teatime": International Neighbors. All area women invited for tea served according to the customs of several cultures. Also, all invited to discuss a favorite teatime custom. International Neighbors is a 48-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers; transportation can be arranged. Refreshments; attendees may bring a snack from their tradition to share. 1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free.

*"Crash": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice/

"Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

*Holiday Dinner: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Bring a dish to pass (and your own table service) for the potluck; beverages provided. Participants are also asked to bring a bird-related item to be auctioned tonight. Proceeds benefit avian education and research. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662-4582.

*"Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century": Sierra Club Book Club. All invited to discuss Dave Foreman's book. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332-0207.

*History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. Note new location. All invited to join a discussion of Harold Rabinowitz's A Passion for Books. Refreshments. 7:30-9 Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

"Sufi Healing, Meditations, & Whirling": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. A program of rumi music, silent meditation, and open whirling. 8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945-8602.

Exploring the Relationship of Rhythm to Movesor Garik Pedersen. 10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert

Zion Lutheran Church. Screening of Paul Haggis's 2004 film about a racially and economically diverse group of people whose lives collide with each other over the course of 2 days in L.A. Preceded by a light dinner and followed by discussion. 6 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan Ave. Free. 663-1870.

*Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free.

★"Oriental Medicine, Women's Health, and Infertility": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local acupuncturist Gary Merel. 7-9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

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13 WEDNESDAY continued

ters, Jeremy Salvatori, Ramona Brand, Cami Bui, Melissa Krienke, Philip Rhein, Kerry Banish, and Tess Belanger. 10 a.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$10 (children, \$8) in advance and at the door. 995-0530

*"Mushrooms, Seaweed, and the Less Popular Herbs": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

Soups and Salad": Eve Restaurant. An Eve chef TBA prepares dishes from the soups and salad chapter of Eve's new cookbook, including herb croutons and warm salads and soups. Also, a discussion of pairing Wine with salads, and a wine tasting. 7 p.m., Eve, Ker-rytown. \$35. Preregistration required. 222–0711.

"Annual Potluck and Members Slide Show": Wild Ones. Members give short slide-illustrated talks about their adventures with native plants. Also, Potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own table service). 7-9 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1600 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769-6981

*PaleoJoe: Barnes & Noble. Midland paleontologist Joseph Kchodl reads from his children's book Hidden Dinosaurs and from chapter books cowritten with Wendy Caszatt-Allen in the PaleoJoe's Dinosaur Detective Club series, The Disappearance of Dinosaur Sue and Stolen Stegosaurus. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

Road

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*"The House That Genghis Built": Ann Arbor District Library. Milan Area Schools speech pathol-Ogist Mary Underwood discusses her travels in Mon-golia, which she has visited regularly since 2004 in an effort to document Mongolian felt making and textiles. The program includes photos, a film, and felt and textile displays. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multi-purpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

*"Peaceful Parenting in a Culture of Violence": U-M Center for the Child and the Family. Talk by local social worker Mary Ortega. 7-8:30 p.m., UCCF, 530 Church St. Free. 764-9466.

*Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.See 6 Wednesday. Tonight: poet ry readings by U-M English lecturers Charlotte Boulay and Dargie Anderson. 7-9:30 p.m.

★University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music-student ensemble in the Overture to Verdi's opera La Forza del Destino, Respighi's colorful Feste Romane, and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto no. 2, considered one of the greatest piano concertos ever written. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★E3Q: U-M Residential College. Postponed from November. This RC music faculty avant-jazz trio—cellist Katri Ervamaa, percussionist Michael Gould, and trumpeter Mark Kirschenmann-celebrates the release of its debut CD, Songbook One. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free.

Dr. John: The Ark. See 12 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Improv with the Vegans": Dreamland Theater. The Detroit-based troupe Vegan Meat Locker presents a fast-paced, hugely enjoyable torrent of improv comedy featuring ridiculously absurd scenarios, many based on audience suggestions, and quicksilver humor with hilariously deadpan hairpin twists. Opening act TBA. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$5.657-2337.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday, 8 p.m.



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14 THURSDAY continued

Jesse Palter: Kerrytown Concert House. This Detroit-based jazz singer, winner of the 2006 Detroit Music Award for outstanding jazz vocalist, performs with local bassist Paul Keller, area drummer Keith Hall, New York-based, Ann Arbor-bred guitarist Randy Napoleon, and her bandmember, pianist Mike Jellick. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Ticket cost TBA. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Kitty Donohoe: The Ark. See review, p. 101. This Irish-American singer-songwriter from Detroit is known for her bell-like soprano-an instrument that has been described as "rich, flexible, soaring, and haunting"—and her grittily realistic, bluesy original songs. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thurs-

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 14-16. A South Lyon native and EMU grad who now lives in L.A., Heffron specializes in obs vations about the indignities and absurdities of life from the point of view of children and youths. A frequent guest on network and cable TV show, Heffron stars in the new VH1 sitcom Smash. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$16 (Thurs.) & \$19 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$19 (Thurs.) & \$21 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

MTF. "Keeping Mum" (Niall Johnson, 2005). See 13 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "Disaster" (Roy T. Wood, 2005). See 13 Wednesday. Mich., times

15 FRIDAY

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

*"Monkey Ball Banana Blitz": Ann Arbor District Library. Players of all ages invited to try this versatile, addictive video game. 6-9 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Thursday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. December 15-17 (different locations). Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 32 boys in its 20th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, a suite of mostly medieval carols for treble voices and harp. The program also includes David Willcocks's arrangements of "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful." The Boychoir's 13-member Preparatory Choir performs Alfred Burt's "Caroling, caroling" and John Rutter's "Star Carol," and Cantabile, a 24voice ensemble of boys ages 11-18 that includes both changed and unchanged voices, performs Rutter's "What sweeter music." The choirs are accompanied by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. The Boychoir Christmas CD is on sale. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5) in advance at aaboy-choir.org and at the door. 663–5377.

"We Need a Little Christmas": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of Christmas music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. Also, performance by the handbell choir, the Joyous Ringers. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 213-3770.

"Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. December 15-17. Sue Roe directs local young actors in John Caird and Trevor Nunn's lavish Royal Shakespeare Company adaptation of the James Barrie classic fantasy about the boy from Neverland who refuses to grow up. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets \$14 (students through high school, \$9) in advance and at the door. 913-9800.

*"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association. See 1 Friday. Tonight's entertainment includes Victorian caroling by Arbor Consort and more TBA. 7-9 p.m.

Whit Hill & John Latini: Johnny's Speak-Easy. These 2 veteran local singer-songwriters tunes from their new CD collaboration, D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A, a collection what they promise are "sweet, silly, grumpy, silly, funky, lovely songs about Christmas." Hill and Latini are joined by several local musicians, including Hill's Postcards bandmate (and husband) guitarist and keyboardist Al Hill and Latini's brother, drummer Jim Latini. Also, John Sperendi, singer-songwriter Annie Capps, and Dave Keeney. 8 p.m., location TBA. Donation. Reserva-tions required. 231–0263.

Finvarra's Wren: The Ark. Traditional Irish and Celtic-American dances and carols by this Detroitrea multigenerational sextet led by singer-guitarist Jim Perkins. Tonight's show, "Winter Solstice Celebration," features wassails, stories, and music with midwinter themes. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS

22nd Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 15-17. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults - some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. The score is performed live by the Michigan Sinfonietta, condiby Leo Najar. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$24 (students & seniors, \$20; kids 12 & under, \$14) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thurs-

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 1 Friday.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

*3rd Friday Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. Free. 973–1933.

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. See 8 Friday. 9:45 p.m.-1 a.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). December 15-21. Documentary about the cultural scene of the 60s and 70s and the antagonism between Lennon and the Nixon administration. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. U-M Screen Arts and Cultures. "End-of-Term Screenings" (various student directors, 2006). December 15 & 16. Screenings of animated, digital, and conventional-film movies made by freshmen and sophomores (December 15) and juniors and seniors (December 16). Note: The Saturday show is usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early. FREE. 764-0147. Nat. Sci. auditorium, 6 p.m.-midnight.

16 SATURDAY

60th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions, that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also con duct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the count for the Washtenaw area (which is centered on Ann Arbor), call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening. 6 a.m., for instructions and further information, call Nancy The run extended

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The run of Jeff Daniels's Escanaba in Love at the Purple Rose Theater has been extended through Jan. 20.

French at 994–8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or 665–7427.

19th Annual Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Orthodox Church. Big sale of meat, spinach, and cheese twist pastries, holiday cookies, breads, pierogi, and other treats. Also, sale of gift items. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Ave. (2 miles west of Baker). Dexter. Free admission. 769-2686.

Maureen Schiffman and Coco: Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Local pup-peteer Schiffman brings her monkey puppet pal for a multicultural holiday program of songs and stories for prekindergartners through 5th-graders. 11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 (youths age 16 & under, \$7) in advance at perfo mancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

*"Taste of the Holidays": Whole Foods Market. A chance to sample a range of holiday treats. Q&A with staff members. Noon-4 p.m., Whole Foods Market, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975-4500.

*"Super Smash Double Dash Grand Championship": Ann Arbor District Library. High-ranking contestants from the last 4 monthly Mario Kart and Super Smash Brothers video game tournaments for kids in grades 6-12 compete today for the grand championship. A short wild-card tournament is held at noon to give newcomers a chance to make it to the championship. Prizes. Pizza, snacks, & beverages. Noon-5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Northern Illinois. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22.764-0247

*"The Night Henry Ford Met Santa": Barnes & Noble. Michigan writer Carol Hagen reads from her charming tale about how Henry Ford got his idea for the assembly line from Santa's elves. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.

*Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the parents of the cosmos, primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and hon-oring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass), raffle, and child care. Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday (call for time). 2-5 p.m., IC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 262-1052

*Elizabeth Kostova: Nicola's Books. U-M grad Elizabeth Kostova: Artona's Books. 6-W grad Elizabeth Kostova signs copies of her best-selling debut novel, *The Historian*, now available in paperback (see 9 Saturday listing). 2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

42nd Annual Community Messiah Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, earsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. More than 100 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer or-chestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; Prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their

own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:15 p.m. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 2:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Meg Gower at 433–0150.

Annual Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by students in 3 of the school's youth orchestras. Also, chamber music students perform in the lobby. 3 p.m., Michigan Theater. \$10 suggested donation.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 15 Friday. 3 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti.

Winter Concert: Treetown Community Chorus. David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a jazzy arrangements of holiday favorites and Barn Dance Medley, a choral arrangement of American folk tunes. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. 4 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted.

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch Mc-Math telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332-9132.

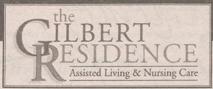
"Tradicional Pastorela & Posada Mexicana": Alebrije Productions. This local Latino cultural group ents a traditional Mexican Christmas party highlighted by performances, in Spanish, of a pastorela, a Mexican version of the medieval miracle play that depicts the struggle between good and evil through the story of Lucifer's efforts to divert the shepherds from their pilgrimage to see the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem, and a *posada*, an enactment of Joseph and Mary's quest for lodging on their way to Bethlehem for the census. This family-oriented program also features songs, dance, games, pinatas, face painting, food, and more. 5:30–9:30 p.m., First Methodist Church Cultural Hall, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. \$6 (kids, \$4) suggested donation. 330–1890.

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2006–2007 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Dartmouth. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Thursday. Today: Team USA Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m

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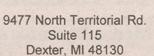
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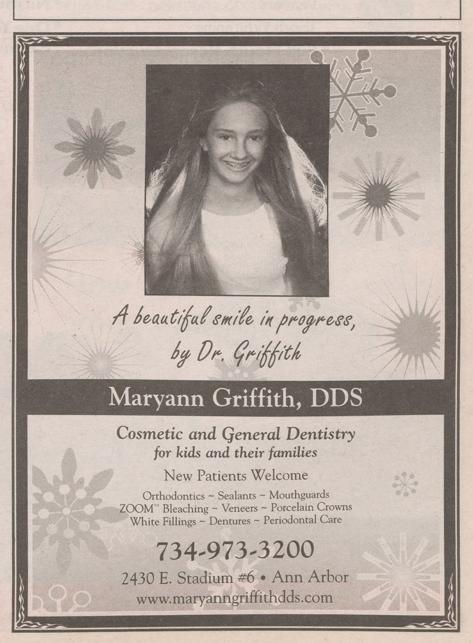
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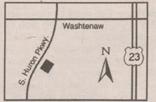
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Evening Appointments Available

16 SATURDAY continued

"Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. See 15 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

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Lynn Miles: The Ark. Canadian singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist who writes rootsy, emotionally intense pop-folk story songs. She sings in a voice that's been called "warm, plangent, and edgy in a very human way," and her best songs are known for their incisive poetry and emotional power. Her latest CD, Love Sweet Love, is a collection of songs exploring the relationships between love and loss, despair and redemption. "Lynn Miles makes being forlorn sound like a state of grace," says New York Times music critic Jon Pareles. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

22nd Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 2 Saturday, 8–9:30 p.m.

John Heffron: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Couples Dance Party: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couples dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. With live music by fiddler Bruce Sagan & others TBA. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. Snacks. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dance lessons. 8:30–11 p.m., Gretchen's House Dhu Varren, 1580 Dhu Varren. \$8 (students, \$5). 769–7642.

"Holiday Hoe-Down": Blackbird Theater. Local purveyors of heartland rock and roots music Paul's Big Radio and other performers TBA. Also, music from the recent Blackbird Theater production *The Glob* and more. 9 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline. \$10 suggested donation. 332–3848.

FILMS

M-Flicks. "High Fidelity" (Stephen Frears, 2000). Quirky comedy about a daft record store owner's romantic difficulties. Based on the Nick Hornby novel. John Cusack, Jack Black, Lisa Bonet. FREE, but ticket required. 763–1107. Nat. Sci., 8 p.m. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

17 SUNDAY

★Secular Humanistic Hanukkah Celebration: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. An educational program on the history of Hanukkah, followed by a party with latkes and various activities. 10 a.m.—noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Frosty the Snowman in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 761–7240.

★Steve Lehto: Arborland Borders. This Farmington Hills attorney discusses *Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder*, his account of the 1913–1914 copper strike in Calumet, Michigan. Also, signing. 7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.

*"Dance Dance Revolution": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to compete in tournaments of this computer-guided movement game. Participants can compete by themselves in beginner and standard brackets or as a team in a parent & kid bracket. Prizes. 1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.

★Jazz Holiday Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Students ages 10 to adult perform in small jazz combos. 2-4 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free; donations accepted. 995–4625.

22nd Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 15 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Private Eyes": P.T.D. Productions. See 7 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater. See 13 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

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"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Peter Pan": Young Actors Guild. See 15 Friday

★Open House: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Highlighted by a dance concert with performances by Arts in Motion students in a variety of dance forms, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, musical theater, and more. Also, a chance to meet Arts in Motion teachers. Refreshments. 2:30-4:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2839 Boardwalk. Free. 646-9417.

"Sacred Drum Circle": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited for a freeform drum circle. No experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one. 3 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. \$5. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.

"Holiday Gifts": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of wellknown songs from stage and screen. Accompanist is local pianist Gene Gaunt. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington. Donation. 904–6289.

*"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. See review, p. 95. St. Andrew's music direct tor Deborah Friauff directs the church choirs in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's and includes David Willcocks's arrangement of "Of the Father's Love Begotten," Boris Ord's "Adam Lay Ybounden," the traditional carol "Ding, Dong! Merrily on High," Andrews Carter's "A Maiden Most Gentle," Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Sussex Carol," William Mathias's "A Babe Is Born," and Hopson's arrangement for junior choir of Handel's "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God." Also, Suzanne Bender directs the St. Dunstan's Bell Choir in Sandra Eithun's arrangement of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and Nancy Tipton's arrangement of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 15 Friday. 5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.

*Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. All invited to join in singing around a candlelit tree. Refreshments, socializing. 6-8 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 4971-6217

★Living Nativity: First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. December 17–19. Nativity tableau featuring live animals, people in period costume, and recorded music. Also, carol singing and animal petting. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti, 1110 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. 485–4699.

5th Annual Concert for Peace: The Ark. Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-songwriters Chris Buhalis, Dick Siegel, Jay Stielstra, John Latini, Annie Capps, Annie Gallup, Joe Reilly, and Tony Morgan, and Whit & Al Hill, the Chenille Sisters, the Royal Garden Trio, Hullabaloo, the Hummingbirds, Phillis & the Left Sidemen, and FUBAR. Also, storyteller LaRon Williams. Proceeds benefit Michigan Peaceworks. Organizers suggest that in the wake of the recent national election, the evening's mood is expected to be unusually celebratory. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at MichiganPeaceworks (1201/2 W. Liberty), Fourth Ave Birkenstock, Arbor Brewing Company, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Psychology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk by U-M manage ment studies professor Aaron Ahuvia. 8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–9897.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sun-

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sunday. 9:30

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 3 Sunday. 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times

18 MONDAY

*"Holiday Gift Cooking Session": St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. All invited to make take-home batches of 5 edible and healthy gifts: red onion marmalade, herb-flavored vinegar, oven-roasted pecans, herb-rice blends, and freezable baked goods. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Women's Health Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 712–5800.

All-American Rejects: Live Nation. Popular young power-pop quartet from Stillwater, Oklahoma. Blender reviewer Laura Sinagra describes the songs on the band's new CD Move Along as "faux-angry dispatches from happy drunken tour-bus sex parties. Opening acts are the guitar-based postpunk rock 'n' roll band Motor City Soundtrack, the Arizona rock quartet The Format, and the western New York hiphop quartet **Gym Class Heroes**. 6:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$25 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS

*Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 426-3903.

"Show and Tell": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930-0617.

MTF. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times

19 TUESDAY

"Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness": Temple Beth Emeth. Screening of Diane Estelle Vicari & Robert Kirk's 2005 PBS documentary about Chiune Sugihara, Japan's consul to Lithuania during WW II who risked his life to write thousands of visas to Japan for Lithuanian Jews desperate to escape Hitler Refreshments. 1-3 p.m. Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665-4744.

★"Drummunity!" Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★Writers Reading at Sweetwaters. EMU English lecturer Mary Koral reads from her short fiction collection Thicker than Water. Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. 7-9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington.

SpiritSisters Women's Circle. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$3.741-0478.

★"A Night at the Opera": Huron High School. Steve Roberts conducts the band in a program of selections from Puccini's La Traviata and Turandot, Rossini's William Tell, George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, and Leo Delibes's Lakme. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 213-4926.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times

20 WEDNESDAY

★"Has Anyone Seen Christmas?": Barnes & Noble. Northern Michigan children's book writer Anne Margaret Lewis reads from her best-selling Christ-mas tale, the Midwest Booksellers Association 2006 Children's Book of the Year. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar inter-ests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. 7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 971-3455.

'Steppin' Out III: Charity Begins at Civic": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 20 & 21. Curt Waugh directs Civic Theater singer-actors in a program of Broadway show tunes. Proceeds benefit the AACT. 8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$15 and \$25 in advance at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater and at the door. 971–2228.



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20 WEDNESDAY continued

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

MTF. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA

21 THURSDAY

*"Share a Story": Briarwood Mall. A storyteller TBA reads a story TBA. 11 a.m., Briarwood children's play area. Free. 769-9610.

*Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. 7-9:30 , Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.

★"Great Nature Trips from Around the Globe": Sierra Club Annual Newcomers' Meeting. Slideillustrated short talks by club members. All invited. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck; bring a dish to pass and your own table service. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 615-0516.

*Winter Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School. Andrea Yun Marttila conducts the Chamber Orchestra in Alan Hovhaness's Psalm and Fugue, the Symphony Orchestra in "Jupiter" from Holst's The Planets and the Overture to Bernstein's Candide, and the Philharmonia in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 3 and Grieg's Holberg Suite. Also, performances by Chamber Orchestra groups. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium Blvd. Free. 994-2120.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Bert "Chili" Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 21-23. This Cincinnati native is a sharp-witted observational humorist known for his cutting, sometimes sarcastic commentary on politics and other topical matters. A former writer for both Jay Leno and the Mother Goose and Grimm comic strip, Challis was nominated for a regional Emmy for his contribution to Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Mike Peters's Pen of Mike Peters feature. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.

MTF. "U.S. Versus John Lennon" (David Leaf & John Scheinfeld, 2006). See 15 Friday. Mich., times

22 FRIDAY

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids age 2-10 can enjoy dinner, a dip in the pool (age 5 & older only), and games and sports. 6:15-10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. \$15 (members) \$20 (nonmembers). Preregistration required. 661-8012

U-M Women's Basketball vs. St. Bonaventure. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.

*"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association. See 1 Friday. Tonight's entertainment includes Victorian caroling by the Arbor Consort and more TBA. 7-9 p.m.

Five Seasons Chamber Players: Kerrytown Concert House. This nationally touring classical quintet performs Dvorak's Piano Quartet, Shostakovich's String Quartet no. 8, and other works TBA. Members are violinists Timothy Shiu and Julie Fisher, violist Suzanne Wagor, cellist Peter Opie, and pianist Monica Ohuchi. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance and at the door

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 1 Friday.

Bert "Chili" Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). December 22-31. Witty, sharp portrait of eight boys at a Yorkshire grammar



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Kitty Donohoe

Michigan road warrior

Kitty Donohoe has been making songs in Michigan for decades now, and the state's a better place for it. She's a folk-style road warrior princess, crisscrossing both peninsulas, playing for big fat festivals and for tiny popcorn-munching groups gathered in living rooms. Her experience, her wisdom, her in-nate musicality, and a certain indefinable, warm weariness coalesce when she walks onto any stage and picks up her guitar. Weary or no, Donohoe's no cynic. Her songs-love songs, admonitions, paeans to the beauty and history of Michigan-are heartfelt, direct, and honest, delivered in a supple, textured voice that easily travels her complex melodies.

I've seen her live several times and am continually struck by Donohoe's confidence as a performer. She's a masterful player who easily trades her guitar for a bouzouki when the song calls for it. She pulls song after song out of her depths and sings each as if it were both her first and last time. If she ever got stage fright, well, she stopped that nonnse a long time ago.

Her 2001 CD This Road Tonight, coproduced with David Mosher, is a good introduction to Donohoe's recorded work. It kicks off with two songs about travel. The title track reveals her own meandering thoughts as she drives through darkening farms and fields to get to her next gig. She plans her songs; she watches a storm. In "Jack of All Trades," Donohoe remembers a cross-country train trip and the quick, in-tense friendships that form as the land rolls past and disintegrate at the final station stop. The record is peppered with traditional Irish tunes beautifully realized with guest appear-



ances by some of Michigan's finest musicians. "Murder of Crows" starts off with about thirty seconds of actual crow cawing-it momentarily alarmed my dog-and moves into slow and fast instrumental sections featuring fiddle, pennywhistle, mandolin, percussion, and a couple of guys doing Tuvan-style throat singing. It's a great track, as is "Howling at the Moon"-about that primal urge that slumbers in many of us, dogs, nuns, and fishermen alike, until wakened by a massive Michigan lake and a blood-red lunar body.

Kitty Donohoe performs at the Ark on Thursday, December 14.

school preparing for their entrance exams. \$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, \$6.75; MTF members, \$6). 668-TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

23 SATURDAY

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 2 Satur-

Bert "Chili" Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Show-case. See 21 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Susan Chastain Quartet: Firefly Club Christmas Party. Mainstream jazz ensemble led by vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Chastain. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$12 (includes dessert buffet) at the door only. 665–9090.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006).

24 SUNDAY

*Community Holiday Party and Dance. A potluck is followed by a family dance (2 p.m.), another potluck (4.45 p.m.), and a contra dance (6 p.m.). Live music TBA. Bring one or more dishes to pass (table service provided). Noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). Free.

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ. 1:15-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 761–7240.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

*Living Nativity: First Congregational Church. Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. Also, at 5 p.m., a Christmas pageant. 4-8 p.m.,

First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.

*Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and the Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

*Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.

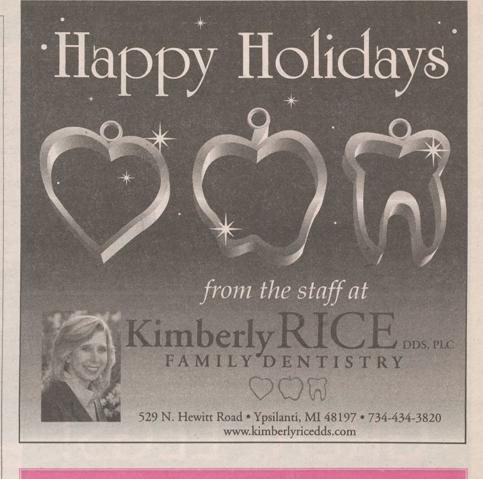
MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

25 MONDAY (Christmas)

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Temple Beth Emeth. "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (Mel Stuart, 1971). Delightfully unsettling musical fantasy about a boy who visits a candy factory. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. 665–4744. Michigan Theater, 10:30 a.m.

26 TUESDAY

"The Big Freeze": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. December 26-31. Activity tables about the science of cold offer a chance to see liquid nitrogen demos (noon, 2, & 4 p.m.), try on blubber gloves, and make ice cream. Games and other activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 26–30) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 31) Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. \$7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995-5439.



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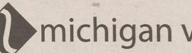


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26 TUESDAY continued

★"Pokemania Tournament Series": Ann Arbor District Library. December 26-29. All kids age 6 & up invited to bring their Game Boy Advance and their copy of Pokemon FireRed, LeafGreen, Ruby, Sapphire, or Emerald to compete for prizes in daily tournaments. Also, a chance to trade Pokemon cards and share playing tips. 1-4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free.

★"Yarn Pictures": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids age 8 & up invited to make something with yarns of various colors and textures. 2-4 p.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

★"Teen Open Play and Nintendo DS Fest": Ann Arbor District Library. December 26-28. All kids in grades 6-12 invited to bring their Nintendo DS to play with video games and share tips and tricks. 5-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. 8-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$17 in advance only. (517) 787-6367, (517) 592-5771.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

27 WEDNESDAY

*"Silly Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program by award-winning local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor for kids age 2 & up. 10–10:30 a.m., AADL story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.

*"Hexabits": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids age 6 & up invited to construct a 3-dimensional object with these flexible 6-sided building tiles. 2-4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4200.

*Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars availa for kids to use. 7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

28 THURSDAY

*"Happy New Year Make It and Take It Craft": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids age 3 & up invited to make New Year's Eve hats and noisemakers. Materials provided. 2-4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch (Dec. 28), Plymouth Mall, & AADL Pittsfield Branch (Dec. 29), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Army. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22.764-0247.

*"Herbs in Ritual Ceremony and Magical Use": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975-4500.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

'The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 28-30. This Detroit comic is known for a fastpaced, good-natured show that mixes song parodies with lots of raunchy one-liners, jokes, and jabs at his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$10 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

29 FRIDAY

Four Nations Tournament: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 29 & 30 and January 1 & 2. The Team USA Under-17 Team of this Ann Arbor-based program hosts a tourn that also features junior teams from Finland, Sweden, and Germany. Today: Finland vs. Sweden (3:30 p.m.) and Germany vs. Team USA (7 p.m.). 3:30 & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$12 (students & children, \$6).

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. December 29 & 30, 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by Irish fiddler Brian Conway, the foremost exponent of the "Sligo-New York style" of Irish fiddle. He is joined by the renowned piano accompanist Barbara Mangone. Also, traditional Irish dancer Nick Gareiss, who is joined by Detroit-area step dancers, along with young fiddlers from Mike Gavin's School of Music, other area Irish musicians, and surprise guests TBA. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 1 Friday

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

30 SATURDAY

Tour: Zingerman's Bakehouse. A chance to view artisanal bread and pastry baking and get a free treat. Kids under age 6 not admitted. 10 a.m., Zingerman's Bakehouse, 3711 Plaza Dr. \$5 (kids ages 6-12, free). Reservations required. 761-7255.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Georgetown. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$22.764-0247

Four Nations Tournament: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 29 Friday. Today: Germany vs. Sweden (3:30 p.m.).

★"Prints and Cameras": Ann Arbor Black-and-White Photography Co-op. All invited to join a group discussion and to celebrate the holidays. 7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 846-4492. "Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 29 Friday.

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Profes-

sional Season. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m

Jef Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

31 SUNDAY (New Year's Eve)

"The Fantasticks": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Early Show for Friends and Families": The Firefly Club. Live jazz ensemble TBA. Food buffet. 7 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 (kids under 12, \$10; kids under 5, free) at the door only.

★"Full Moon Traveling New Year's Dinner Party Trek": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal leads a 15-mile hike along the river to Depot Town in Ypsilanti, with a stop at a picnic table for an elegant gourmet meal. Bring a snack appetizer, dish, or dessert, and a hot or cold beverage of your choice. Participants must arrange their own return home. 5 p.m., meet at 120 Eighth St. Free. Reservations required. 369-3107.

"14th Annual New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Area Visitors & Convention Bureau. This festival usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 30 area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti. At the Riverside Arts Center: fire performance-art by the TNC Players (6:30-6:45 p.m.), and (times TBA) the musical revue On the Air by the local Choral Connection, and excerpts from Circus Opus by Michael Lee & Opus Mime. In the Riverside Arts Center Gallery: children's music by the popular local acoustic duo Gemini (8-10 p.m.). In the Riverside Arts Center DTE Building: African and African American folktales by storyteller LaRon Williams (7-9 p.m.). At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: Three shows by the Theatrical Combat Network. Three Mind Vice (7:30 -8 p.m.) is a Romeo and Juliet spoof, Shadow Steel (8-8:30 p.m.) is swordfight and comedy, and The Unnamed Pirate Show (8:30-9 p.m.) is a comedy show. Also, honkytonk dance tunes from vintage blues and country rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll by George Bedard and the Kingpins (9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.). At First Presbyterian Church: folk and classical guitar by Terry Farmer (7-7:45 p.m.) and jazz by fiddler Jeremy

Kittel (9-1 (various ro School Ch (8-8:45 p p.m.-midni songwrite David Mos night), and TBA). At S tar by Jose (7-10 p.m. by Strings Museum: h R&B. and 10 p.m.). 6 cations. A age 5 & ur Books and tailed sche "New Yea

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Kittel (9-11 p.m.). At First United Methodist Church (various rooms): tap dance by Sole Full of Rhythm (7–7:45 p.m.), chamber music by the **Ypsilanti High School Chamber Singers** (7:30–8:15 p.m.), a variety show by the **Ypsilanti High School Drama Club** (8-8:45 p.m.), boogie-woogie piano by Mr. B (9 p.m.-midnight), songs and stories by Detroit singer-songwriter Kitty Donohoe (9 p.m.-midnight), acoustic folk music by multi-instrumental virtuoso David Mosher (9 p.m.-midnight), singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist Matt Watroba (9 p.m.-mid-night) and jazzy bloog by Model (8 2). p.m.-midnight), songs and stories by Detroit singer and acoustic guitarist Matt Watroba (9 p.m.-mid-night), and jazzy blues by Madcat & Kane (time TBA). At St. Luke's Episcopal Church: classical gui-tar by Joseph Pratt (7–10 p.m.). At the Historical Museum: hammer dulcimer by Charlene Berry (7-10 p.m.). At Cross Street Village: country music by Strings & Things (7-9 p.m.). At the Automotive Museum: houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock by the Terraplanes (7-10 p.m.). 6:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets \$20 (kids ages 6–16, \$5; age 5 & under, free) in advance at Busch's & Nicola's Books and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 480-1636.

"New Year's Eve Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a traditional 19th-century celebration with a 6-course meal featuring a menu of traditional American foods associated with Thomas Jefferson, who introduced a wide variety of foods and culinary activity to the colonies. 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. \$65 (\$100 includes wine). Reservations required. 663-FOOD.

*"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 11:30 a.m. on January 1. 7 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761–6520.

New Year's Eve: The Firefly Club. With Paul Keller & Friends, a straight-ahead jazz band led by veteran local bassist Keller. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$75 (includes dinner buffet & champagne toast) in advance and at the door.

Tom Foss: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Ann Arbor debut of this rising stand-up star who is often compared to George Carlin and Robin Williams. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Foss is an animated high-energy performer with an immense archive of hilarious jokes about himself, his family, his native West Virginia, and the larger world. Alcohol is served. The early show is a nonsmoking show. The late show includes a champagne toast and party favors. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door.

New Year's Eve Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (PWP members,

Luck of the Draw: Holiday Inn North. Veteran scribes its music alternately as "truckerpunk/ cowpunk rock 'n' roll" and "pure whoop-ass country." "If Willie Nelson wrote songs for AC/DC, you'd get Luck of the Draw," says Tulsa Times music writer Paul Simmions. Ticket price includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast, and party favors. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Holiday Inn North, 3600 Plymouth Rd. \$40 in advance and (if available) at the door. 769-9800.

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to rock 'n' roll covers and originals by the Killer Flamingos, a popular, veteran band from Wayne. Includes admis-sion to 2 street-level clubs above the Cavern Club, Gotham City and the Millennium Club, which features dance music by DJs. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Cavern Club, 210 S. First. \$50 includes a buffet dinner and champagne split. Reservations recnended. 332-9900.

The Chenille Sisters: The Ark. The nationally renowned local trio of singer-songwriters Cheryl Dawdy, Connie Huber, and Grace Morand is known for its unbeatable combination of breathtakingly precise and resonant vocal harmonies, a comic wit that's both corny and subversive, and a delightfully eclectic repertoire of original songs mixed with jazz, swing, folk, and blues standards. 10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$35 (includes champagne & party favors) in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Tickettlets; and at the door. To charge by phone call 763-TKTS.

MTF. "The History Boys" (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

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University Living resident Walli Paas enjoying the holidays with children from a local school.

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Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark 316 S. Main

761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Dec. 6: Open Stage. All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings. 7:30-10 p.m.

Banfield's 3140 Packard Rd. 971-3300

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ p.m.-midnight. Dancing, no cover. Dec. 9: The HillRays. Popular Ypsilanti bluegrass band that also plays some honky-tonk, western swing, and gospel tunes.

Beaner's Coffee 539 E. Liberty 997-0992

This campus-area coffeehouse features live music or Wed., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 6: Lisa Pappas. Michigan singer-songwriter who sings twangy pop-folk and country originals. Dec. 13: John Latini. Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, the winner of the 2004 Metro Detroit Songwriting Contest. Dec. 20: The Pryde. Local ensemble that plays an eclectic mix of classical, jazz, folk, rock, and bluegrass. Dec. 27: No music

The Blind Pig 208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-oftown rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Dec. 1: The Disregarded.** Self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses, and rock 'n' roll energy. Opening act is **Motown Rage**, a Ferndale band that plays classic Detroit rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 2: The Slackers.** All ages admitted. Ska and rocksteady by this popular New York City band. Opening act is **Deals Gone Bad**. See Events. 8 p.m.—2 a.m. **Dec. 5: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 6: Ryan Montbleau.** Folk-rock band led by this talented Montbleau. Folk-rock band led by this talented young singer-songwriter from Cambridge, Massa-chusetts. Opening acts are **Empty Orchestra** and Jacets. See Events. Dec. 7: Zion 1. Underground hip-hop duo from Oakland, California. Opening act is **The Grouch.** See Events. **Dec. 8:** Smokestack. Bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet. Dec. 9: Jamie Register Project. Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singerbassist Register. Dec. 12: Trembling Earth. Local psychedelic southern-rock band. Opening acts are **Drunken Barn Dance**, a local experimental folkrock band, and Narwhals Collide, an Ypsilanti band that calls its music "freedom rock dancecore."

Dec. 13: A Working Model. Local progressive rock quartet whose influences range from King Crimson to Tool. Opening acts are the local rock trio
The Idol & the Whip, the Detroit punk-metal quartet Omission, and the Ferndale noise-metal band Ganon. Dec. 14: "Your Hip-Hop." Local hip-hop MCs TBA. Dec. 15: The Macpodz. Immensely popular local soul-rock jam band. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD. Dec. 16: Gore Gore Girls. Kick-ass 60s-based garage pop by this all-female Detroit trio. Opening acts are **The Cyril Lords**, a Detroit psychedelic punk-rock rock trio, and (tentatively) **SSM**, a Detroit psychedlic industrial-punk trio that includes members of the Hentchmen, the Sights, and the Cyril Lords. Dec. 19: "Showcase Night." See above. Dec. 20: TBA. Dec. 21: Ann Arbor Soul Club. Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. Dec. 22: Killa-Watt. Local dance-



Whit Hill and the Postcards

Life lessons

When I told Whit Hill I was writing an event review about her band, she started yelling into the phone, "Charmie, you can't do that! You're one of my closest friends. That is not appropriate." She calmed down after I promised to be forthright about our twentyyear friendship. Besides, I'm not going to give her any special treatment. It's not like she's Madonna. Geez.

Whit founded the theatrical modern dance company People Dancing and was its choreographer for about 100 years. In her current singer-songwr1

performance incarnation, she plays acoustic guitar, sings, and writes songs. She shares the stage with three others: her husband, local blues legend Al Hill, sings harmonies and plays guitar and keyboards; Chuck Navyac is the drummer; and Pat Prouty plays upright bass. Last March, I arrived at the Ark for the release performance of the Postcards' CD Farsighted (the show also served as a benefit for the Ark) just as Ms. Smarty Pants said, "Do you know what happened on

this day in 1976? Hot-air ballooning was made legal in Michigan. That's good information to have."

The songs range from straight-up country to big blues, dramatic waltzes, and sweet acoustic stories. "Sweetie Momma" is a tribute to elderly, tough-as-nails Maggie, who used to live across the street from Whit and Al. In the funky, sexy "Regimen," Whit talks about her "treatments" and how the doctor says she's "a lucky girl." If Al's love treatments are anything like his slide guitar treatment, then she sure is lucky. Then consider these lyrics from the dramatic waltz "Fall":

Coming around the corner I stumbled into you I wasn't being careful

My eyes were closed You grabbed me by the shoulder You held me steady too You pressed me in the wall You said, "I won't let you fall"

I have no idea what the song is about, but the imagery is so vivid and the music so hauntingly beautiful, I don't care.

In "The Milky Way," Al punctuates the sparse lyrics with sad electric guitar. Whitley speaks of moonlight flowing into their bedroom, of marital bliss as Al sleeps next to her: "[Al mumbles from his sleep] 'The Milky Way'/And I say 'Why, baby?'/And you say 'Because/It begins/With M.'" It's freaking hilarious and paradoxically sober. This is Whit Hill at her best, showing us we can be simultaneously funny, poignant, scared, and happy. We will love people we don't expect to, have our fate determined by our eyewear, and speak to our lovers from a dead sleep. We are complex humans on an unpredictable life journey-and Whit Hill sends us postcards from along the way.

John Latini joins Whit Hill, some of the Postcards, and some of the Flying Latini Brothers to premiere songs from Hill and Latini's Christmas CD D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A at the Tap Room Annex on Saturday, December

-Charmie Gholson

hall reggae band whose music mixes in elements of hip-hop and other idioms. Dec. 23: Whitey Morgan & the Waycross, Georgia, Farm Boys. Detroit retro outlaw honky-tonk band. Opening act is **Desolation Angels**, a Detroit indie rock band. A fund-raiser/party for the Detroit Derby Girls roller derby team. Dec. 26: "Showcase Night." See Dec. 30: TBA. Dec. 31: The Bang! Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Cafe Felix 204 S. Main

662-8650

This downtown cafe features live music every other Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 9** & 23: **Deep Blue.** Jazz trio led by drummer John

Campus Chapel Coffeehouse 668-7421 1236 Washtenaw Ct.

Monthly acoustic showcase in the Campus Chapel basement, 8:30-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Free refreshments. Dec. 9: The Moveable Furniture. Detroit-area folk-rock quartet. Also, Troy singer-songwriter Tom Butwin and Lansing poprock singer-songwriter Rachanee Kitchel.

Cavern Club 210 S. First St.

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 streetlevel clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music, Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **Dec. 1** (6–9 p.m.): **FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by

Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a new 4song minidisk, Clean House, an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1968 protest classic For What It's Worth, and

an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." Dec. 2: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit **Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." Dec. 2: Lady Sunshine & the X Band. Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 8** (6-9 p.m.): **Carter Road Project.** Dec. 8: Noteworthy. Local funk-soul band. Dec. 9: Killer Flamingos. Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. Dec. 15 (6-9 p.m.): Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys. Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. Dec. 15: Thornetta Davis. Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Dec. 16: The Underdog.** Detroit band that plays 90s rock covers. Dec. 22: (6-9 p.m.): Jim Tate Band. The veteran honky-tonk duo of singer-guitarist Tate and bassist Chris Goerke features a varied repertoire and resonant vocal harmonies. **Dec. 22: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. Dec. 23: Killer Flamingos. See above. Dec. 29 (6-9 p.m.): Drivin' Sideways. Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. Dec. 29: Noteworthy. See above. Dec. 30: Lady Sun-shine & the X Band. See above. Dec. 31: Killer Flamingos. See above.

Club Above 215 N. Main 663-7758

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.-Sun., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only unless otherwise noted

Every Fri.: Latino Night. DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexi**can Night. With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. Every Tues.: "She-Bang." DJ plays 80s & 90s pop dance hits. "Ann Arbor's Lesbian Night." Every Thurs.: Electronica, House, & Technology no. With DJ Nate of Deep Blue. Dec. 2: "80s Night." DJ Saladin plays 80s dance music. A fund raiser for annarboralive.com Internet radio. Dec. 9: The State. Veteran local hardcore band fronted by vocalist Preston Woodward and featuring guest gui-tarist Craig Claunch. Opening acts are **The Pussy Pirates**, a local all-female avant-jazz punk quartet, and MOM, a young local garage-punk band. DJ Lindsay plays punk records between sets. Also, a light show by Evil Pete. Dec. 16: Deep Space Six. Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. Dec. 23 & 30: TBA.

Club Bedrocks 2900 Jackson Rd.

665-4444

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.:**"Mix & Mingle." DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. Every Sat.: Latino Night. DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's 318 S. Main

665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30-10 p.m.) and Tues.-Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session. All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band. Sprague. Dec. 6: Bruno's Brawlers. Traditional Irish songs of drinking and rebellion, accompanied on a wide array of instruments, by this Detroit-area duo. Dec. 7: Mossy Moran. Traditional singer from Ireland. Dec. 13: The Terraplanes. See Goodnite Gracie. Dec. 14: Blue Infusion. Blues and vintage blues-rock by this veteran local Dec. 20: Mossy Moran. See above. Dec. 21: Randy Brock Group. Detroit blues trio. Dec. 27: Johnny & the Fenders. Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band that includes members of the Diggers. Dec. 28:

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George Martha Band. Detroit trio that plays traditional Celtic music with a Middle Eastern accent.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room 114 S. Main 665-9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 1: Hawks and Owls. Old-time string band from Kalamazoo whose repertoire ranges from bluegrass and country blues to Appalachian and Celtic fiddle tunes. **Dec. 2: Jimmy Atto.** Upbeat pop-rock by this Detroit-bred singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on guitar and harmonica. Dec.
3: Mark Duval. Indie Americana singersongwriter from Kalamazoo whose repertoire also include covers by everyone from Gillian Welch and Iron & Wine to various Michigan songwriters. He is accompanied by singer-guitarist Traci Seuss. Dec. 9: Misty Lyn. Local Americana singer-songwriter known for her soulful voice and frank, fresh original songs. Dec. 15: Xiao Dong. Local experimental ambient-classical musician who tonight performs vo-cal and instrumental pieces for keyboards and 2 Chinese instruments, the *ehru* (a 2-stringed violin), and *guzheng* (a zither). **Dec. 16: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. Dec. 22: DSM. Acoustic folk-rock with a splash of rap by the duo of Chris Hedly and Aaron Toronto. Dec. 23: Ken & Billy King. Homespun rock 'n' roll covers and originals by Frog Holler Farm owner Ken King, a versatile country-folk musician, and his son, guitarist Billy King, along with various musical friends. Dec. 29: The Bridge Club. Wistful, witty roots-pop by the trio of songwriter-guitarist Keith Kiser, bassist Ralph McKee, and pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle. Dec. 30: Black Train. Young local roots music quintet that features hardcore country vocal harmonies.

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Creekside Grill and Bar 5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. November 26: II-V-I Orchestra. Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B

Dreamland Theater

44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti 657-2337

This Depot Town theater features occasional live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. Covually a donation), no dancing. Dec. 7: Fields of Industry. Grand Rapids quartet that plays ambient folk-rock. Opening act is Almus Magnus, a UP-bred, Detroit-based country-folk singer-song-writer. Dec. 14: Will Soderberg. Local composer of beat-driven electronica. Opening acts are Scattered Light as ambient noise due that fuses folktered Light, an ambient-noise due that fuses folk-rock acoustic guitar layered electronics and found sounds, and Ronen Goldstein, a local ambient electronic composer who uses instruments and to he's tweaked to produce odd sounds. Dec. 16:
Patrick Elkins. Ypsilanti singer-songwriter whose shows also include performance art, poetry, and finger-puppetry. Opening acts are Chris Bathgate, a local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic storage in a warrety of models and Brooths. Out ry songs in a variety of moods, and **Breathe Owl Breathe**, the local duo of guitarist and banjoist
Micah Middaugh and cellist Andrea Moreno-Beals. They create atmospheric, intricately textured instrumental and vocal landscapes. **Dec. 21: Bubble-gone.** Detroit experimental ambient band. Opening ct is Bill Van Loo, an Ypsilanti experimental ambient electronica composer.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Every Mon.: Rick Burgess. Solo pianist. Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan. Solo pianist. Every Wed.: Rick Burgess. Solo pianist. Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart. Solo jazz guitarist. Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio. Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.—Thurs., 9 p.m.—I a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.—2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.—midnight. Dancing, no cover. Every Mon.: "House Night." With DJ Kriss. Every Tues.: "Dance Night." With DJ Conner. Every Wed.: Open Mike Jam. All musicians invited. Dec. 1 & 2: "Ypsifest IV." With Several Vacilantiand area bands, including the punkaseveral Ypsilanti and area bands, including the punka-

billy metal quintet **Chapstik**, psychedelic-grunge band **Rescue**, the blues-rock band **Cuckold**, the math-metal band **Human Wick Effect**, the local punk band **Wildcatting**, the posthardcore indie rock trio **The Clouds**, the self-styled "freedom rock dancecore" band **Narwhals Collide**, popfolk singer-songwriter **Patrick Elkins**, and others TBA. Dec. 3: Natural Monuments. Local indie pop-rock quartet. Opening acts are the local pow-er-pop quartet **Wellness Plan**, the Detroit Indie funk band The Novel Citizen, and the Mount Pleasant ambient folk-rock sextet Camerata. Dec. 7: Mission Man. Opening acts are Guys with Goals, an experimental freeform rock band from Redford, and Aspire, a Detroit posthardcore band. Dec. 8: Hullabaloo. Local quintet that plays ska and 80s-style pop. Opening act is **Treetown Un-derground**, a local acoustic roots-music jam band. Dec. 9: The 77s. Ypsilanti band formerly known as Los Drogas that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly. Opening acts are Loosestrife, an Ypsilanti experimental rock band, and Eat the Evidence, an Ypsilanti gothic-punk quartet. Dec. 10: Gutbucket. Psychedelic progressive-rock quartet from Brooklyn, New York.
Opening acts are **Sexual Pantalones**, an experimental progressive rock band from Lansing, and Defenestra, a Detroit-area quartet that calls its music "electronic musique-concrete no-wave free jazz."

Dec. 13: Todd Deatherage. Recently transplanted to Ann Arbor from New York City, Deatherage is a country-rock singer-songwriter originally from Dallas whom the *Village Voice* dubbed a "honky-tonk Elliott Smith." Opening act is **Shining Mike**, the stage name of local pop-folk singer songwriter Mike Gentry. **Dec. 14:** "Mofo Karaoke." With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." Dec. 15: South Normal. Popular Chelsea quartet whose anthemic rock 'n' roll originals are known for their tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, garage-band versatility, and slacker attitude. Opening acts are the local rock 'n' roll band **Jealous Type**, the local neo-new wave band **Minor Planets**, and the Livonia garage rock trio **SikSik Nation. Dec.** 16: Moodie Veto. Local electro-pop trio. Opening acts are the White Lake pop-thrash band Deet-rick Furrys, the Toledo experimental progressiverock band Glass Bead Game, and Counter Cosby, a local band that plays sarcastic, goofy, prog-rock metal. Dec. 21: "Mofo Karaoke." See above. Dec. 22: The Hot Carls. Local alternative metal trio. Opening acts are **Dark Shift**, a melodic thrash-metal band from Milwaukee, and **MinusNine**, an Ypsilanti drum 'n' bass-grindcore band. **Dec. 23: Uncanny Valley.** Alternative band. Dec. 23: Uncanny Valley. Alternative rock trio from Marquette. Opening acts are Sabnack, an Osaka, Japan, metal band fronted by a female vocalist, and (tentatively) The Vanilla Curve, an experimental pop-rock band from Clarkston. Dec. 27: "Pogo Mojo." Underground dance music with DJs and bands TBA. Dec. 28: "Mofo Karaoke." See above. Dec. 29: "Ska Night." With DJ Chuck Damage. Dec. 30: Counter Cosby. See above. Opening acts are Wild Trees, an experimental progressive funk band from Toledo, and other bands TBA. Dec. 31: TBA.

Espresso Royale Caffe 214 S. Main 668-1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Annie Capps.** Local singersongwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazztinged folk-rock songs with a strong personal flavor. She has released 3 CDs, including the recent *Not So Sure*. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Rod Capps. **Dec. 9: Sari Brown.** Local singersongwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals. late-night traveling songs, and folk-style spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Dec. 16: The Brakemen.** Rootsy folk-rock by this Detroit band led by singer-songwriters Jon Milan and Rick Pinkerton. **Dec.** 23: Eric Moore. Local singer-songwriter who writes passionate white soul songs in the tradition of Van Morrison, Sting, and John Martyn. Dec. 30: No music.

The Firefly Club 207 S. Ashley

665-9090

Jazz and blues club that was recently named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the Detroit Free Press. Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., Tues.—Thurs., 8 p.m.—midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.—1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.—12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.): **Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local encemble led by expendence and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings. This local 10-

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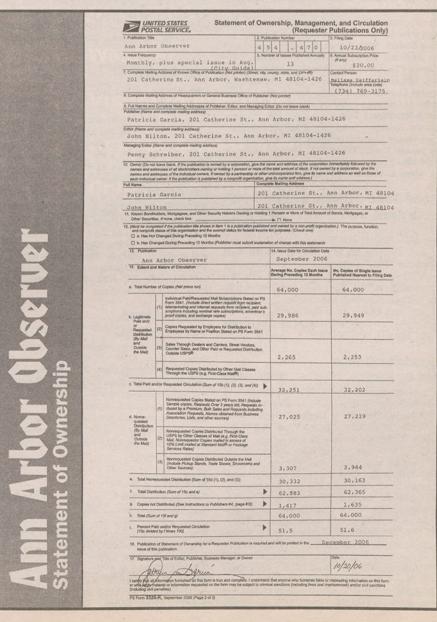
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Music at Nightspots continued

piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and drummer. Every Sun. (except Dec. "Elevation." Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra. Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. Every Wed. (except Dec. 20): Paul Keller Ensemble. High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 Every Thurs. (except Dec. 21): Los Gatos. Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons (\$5 includes cover for the band). **Dec. 1:** The Javon Jackson Superband. Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Jackson, a former member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. Dec. 2: Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke. Local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pi-anist Ted Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. Tonight's show is a live recording session. Dec. 8: Paul Keller Ensemble Christmas Show. This local jazz ensemble (see above) performs jazz arrangements of Christmas favorites. Dec. 9: Tumbao Bravo. Cuban jazz quintet led by local saxophonist and flutist Paul VornHagen and percussionist Alberto Nacif. With pianist Sven Anderson, bassist John Barron, and Javier Barrios on timbales. Dec. 15: Ben Janssen Quartet. Jazz ensemble led by Ann Arbor-bred saxophonist Janssen, a recent U-M grad Tonight's show is a live recording session. Dec. 16: TBA. Dec. 20 & 21: "Steppin' Out III." Civic Theater singer-actors perform Broadway tunes. Pro ceeds benefit the AACT. See Events. Dec. 22: George Bedard & the Kingpins. Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 claimed CDs. Dec. 23: Susan Chastain Quartet. Jazz ensemble led by vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Chastain, who tonight perform jazz arrang ments of Christmas tunes. Dessert buffet. Dec. 29: Jake Reichbart Trio. Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart. Dec. 30: Paul Keller Trio. High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller. Dec. 31: Paul Keller & **Friends.** Straight-ahead jazz by this ensemble led by veteran local bassist Keller.

Good Time Charley's 1140 South University 668–8411

This new club upstairs at Good Time Charley's restaurant features DJs Wed.—Sat., 10 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Every Wed.: "Wild Out Wednesdays." Old-school and new-school hits with DJ Graffiti and DJ C-4. Every Thurs.: "Foundation." DJs Zuma Hi-Fi and Selector Billy the Kid play dancehall, roots reggae, soca, calypso, hip-hop, and R&B records. Every Fri.: TGIF. DJ Scotty plays music requested by the audience. Every Sat.: Top 40. With DJs TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.—Sat., 9:30 p.m.—1 a.m. Every Tues.: "Downtown Tempo to Dance." House & techno music with DJ Aarnio. Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi. An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. Dec. 1: The Witch Doctors. This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated Bone Conduction Music Show, plays what Thayrone calls "waystrong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." Dec. 2: The Terraplanes. Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, Well Tuned. With guitarist Dave

Fero, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxo-

phonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. Dec. 8: Dave Sharp

Quartet. Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. Dec. 9: Lucas Paul Band. Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. Dec. 15: Lester Blues. Local guitar-based blues band. Dec. 16: Nick Strange Band. Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band. Dec. 22: Tumbao Bravo. See Firefly. Dec. 23: The Bluescasters. Local blues band. Dec. 29: Lester Blues. See above. Dec. 30: Chef Chris & the Blue Plate Specials. Blues quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris Sirvinskis. Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Bash." With a band TBA. 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Guy Hollerin's 3600 Plymouth Rd. 769–9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features country bands on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. Dec. 1 & 2: Willie Nash. Country-rock singer-songwriter from Wyandotte whose influences range from Waylon Jennings to George Strait to Bob Seger. Dec. 8 & 9: Grievous Angel. Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. Dec. 15 & 16: Wildfire. Alt-country band from Canton. Dec. 22, 23, 29, & 30: TBA. Dec. 31: Luck of the Draw. Veteran country-rock quartet from Ventura, California, that describes itself as "pure whoop-ass country." See Events

The Habitat Ultralounge 3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.—Thurs., 8:45 p.m.—12:30 a.m., & Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.—1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by Tim Knapp (Tues.—Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and Adam Riccinto (Fri.), 6—8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. Every Mon.: "Monday Groove." With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.—midnight. Dec. 1 & 2: Destiny. Jackson-area band that plays Latin dance pop. Dec. 5—7: Al Hill & the Love Butlers. Soulful swing, New Orleans—style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this veteran local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. Dec. 12—14: The Candidates. East Lansing dance band. Dec. 15 & 16: Bugs Beddow Band. Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. Dec. 19—23: Risque. Pop-soul dance band from Traverse City that plays lots of Motown covers. Dec. 26—28: Dynamic Trio. Detroit dance band fronted by a female vocalist. Dec. 29—31: Government Honey. Detroit quartet that plays 70s dance rock.

The Halfass Church St. entrance to East Quad.

764-8558

Informal student-dominated cafe, formerly known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. Dec. 1: The Muggs. Downriver blues-rock trio. Opening act is The Decks, an indie garage quartet from Grosse Pointe.

Leonardo's 2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: "Salsa Night."** With a DJ TBA. 9 p.m.-midnight, **Dec. 8: Open Mike Night.** All U-M-affiliated performers invited; sign-up is at 7:45 p.m. **Dec. 14: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. 8–10 p.m.

Leopold Bros. 523 S. Main St.

747-9806

This downtown brewpub features occasional live music, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Ages 21 & older admitted. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 31.: Nomo.** Local 9-piece ensemble that plays a mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra– and Coltrane-influenced jazz. The band recently released its acclaimed Ubiquity Records debut, *New Tones*. Opening act is the **Jamie Register Project,** a band led by local singer-bassist Register that plays Motownesque soul music. Also, DJs play dance music between sets.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. 623-1443

This jazz lounge features live music Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m.; & Thurs., 10:30 p.m.–2 a.m.; and Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. after 10:30 p.m. only), dancing. The club also hosts Improv Inferno (see Events listings) Thurs., 8–10:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 8–9:30 p.m.; & & Sun., 8–11:30 p.m. Every Wed.: Open Jam. All musicians invited. Hosted by the local blues band Bill Lewis & Cold Sweat. Every Thurs.: The Groove-Matist.

Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. Dec. 1: Bugs Beddow Band. See Habitat. Dec. 2: Lola Morales. Detroit-based Latin jazz singer who is backed by a jazz quartet. Dec. 8: Good Gravy. R&B band from Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 9: Marc's Motown Revue. Motown cover band fronted by Detroit vocalist Marcus Collins. Dec. 15: Blackman & Arnold. Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. Dec. 16: Laith Al-Saadi. See Goodnite Gracie. Dec. 22 & 23: The Groove-Matist. See above. Dec. 29 & 30: Ultraviolet. Detroit band that plays 80s & 90s rock hits. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Bash. With DJ Mechial White. 9 p.m.—4 a.m.

The Necto 516 E. Liberty

994-5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.—Sat., 9 p.m.—2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.—Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday." Guest DJs spin house and techno records. Every Mon.: "Factory." DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. Every Thurs.: "College Night." DJ Binzo spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. Every Fri.: "Pride." With DJ Timmy D spinning highenergy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. Every Sat.: "Frequency." In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Old Town 122 W. Liberty 662–92

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. Dec. 3: John Latini & Friends. Acoustic rock-based originals by veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter Latini, the winner of the 2004 Metro Detroit Songwriting Contest. He is joined by musician friends TBA. Dec. 10: Dirty Sheets. Local jazz-inflected folk-rock band led by Laura Russeau, a singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. Dec. 17: Bob Skon. Local folk-rock singer-songwriter.

Oz

210 S. Fifth Ave. 222-4770

Nightclub located in the former Ann Arbor Theater. DJs or live music Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.–2 a.m.; Thurs.—Sat., 8 p.m.–4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.—midnight. Cover after 11 p.m., dancing. Every Wed.: Gay Night. With DJs TBA. Every Thurs.: Top 40 Night. With DJ Fares. Every Fri.: International Night. Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. Every Sat.: Hip-Hop and Old Skool. With DJ Fares.

Oz's Music Environment 1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. Dec. 5: "Songwriters Open Stage." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. Dec. 12 "Anything Goes Open Stage." All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. Dec. 19: "Acoustic Open Stage." All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Dave Guimond. Dec. 26: "Songwriters Circle." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Mickey Richard.

Rick's American Cafe 611 Church 996–2747

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.—Sat., 10 p.m.—1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. Every Mon.: DJ Fro. DJ spins dance records. Every Wed.: DJ Big Daddie. DJ spins dance records. Every Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs." DJs TBA play dance music. Every Fri. & Sat.: DJ Big Daddie. See above.

Rush Street 314 S. Main

913-0330

The bar in this new downtown restaurant features DJs Thurs, and live music Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Thurs.: Mechial White.** DJ plays an assortment of contemporary music. **Every Sat.:** Live music TBA.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. 302-3687

This dinner club features DJs Sat.; 9 p.m.-2 a.m.,

playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only. Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night." With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern hosts Monday open mikes, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** Hosted by the Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

Tap Room Annex

205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 487-5544 This tavern next door to the Tap Room features live acoustic music Thurs. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and Fri., 9-11 p.m. No dancing, no cover. Every Wed.: Spencer Michaud. Local acoustic pop singer-songwriter. With different weekly guests TBA. Every Thurs.: Open Mike. Hosted by The Martindales, a local band led by singerguitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All bands invited. Dec. 1: John Latini & Friends. Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singersongwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians each week. Tonight's guests are singersongwriters Louie Hurwitz, an upstate New York singer-writer who produced the Band's three 90s comeback CDs, and Sam Vail, frontman of the Ypsilanti experimental rock band Vailcode. Dec. 2: The Hummingbirds. Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the duo of local singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. Dec. 8: John Latini & Friends. See above. Tonight's guests are Great Lakes Myth Society cofounder **Tim Monger** and the **Top Drawer** Trio, a local jazz trio led by vocalist Sharyl Burau and featuring guitarist Brian Delaney and bassist Rich Rickman. Dec. 9: The Martindales. See above. Dec. 15: Paul Lippens & Friends. Frontman of the local country-pop band Paul's Big Radio, Lippens is joined by 2 guest musicians TBA. Dec. 16: Whit Hill & John Latini. See review, p. 104. These 2 veteran local singer-songwriters showcase tunes from their new CD collaboration, D-E-A-R S-A-N-T-A, a collection what they promise are "sweet, silly, grumpy, silly, funky, lovely songs about Christmas." Hill and Latini are joined by several local musicians, including Hill's Post-cards bandmate (and husband) guitarist and keyboardist Al Hill and Latini's brother, drummer Jim Latini. Also, John Sperendi, singer-songwriter Annie Capps, and Dave Keeney. Dec. 22: Eric Kelly. Versatile local folk- and country-rock singer-songwriter Kelly is joined by local singer-songwriters Chris Bathgate and Greg Mc-Intosh. Dec. 23: TBA. Dec. 29: John Latini & Friends. See above. Tonight's guests are lo-cal country-folk singer-songwriter Mike Boyd and local singer-songwriter Sean DeMonner. Dec.

TC's Speakeasy 207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., and dance bands Thurs.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Sun., 7 & 10 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. Every Fri. (6p.m.): Rob Moses. Local solo pianist. Every Sun.: Local Music Night. Bands TBA. Every Mon.: Open Mike. All musicians invited. Hosted by the local pop-folk jam band City Goat. Dec. 1: View. Ypsilanti rock quartet led by singer-songwriter B. J. Walraven. Opening act is **Penum**brae, a local pop-rock band. Dec. 2: Paul's Big Radio. Rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens. Opening act is Horse Cave Trio, a local group led by veteran singer-bassist Ron Devore that plays blues-fueled rockabilly. Dec. 8: A Day Sale. Local alternative rock band. Opening acts are the **Drew DeFour Band**, a local folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter and pianist DeFour, and Mike Shilakes, an acoustic. pop-rock singer-songwriter from Dearborn.

Dec. 9: The Sillies. Veteran Detroit postpunk 'n' roll party band. Opening act is Collateral Damage, a local hard-rock band, Dec. 15: Scotty Karate. One-man honky-tonk rock 'n' roll band from Chelsea. Dec. 16: Sway. Ypsilanti pop-rock band. Dec. 22: Soot. Local heavy-funk rock quartet. Preceded (6–9 p.m.) by a carol singalong with pianist Rob Moses. Dec. 23: Styles Davis Trio. Local rock'n'roll band. Dec. 29: Red, White, & Booze, 80s metal tribute band. Opening act is Wound, an alternative rock band from Dearborn. Dec. 30: "Holiday Reggae Party." With Papa Joshua and other OneRoot Soundsystem DJs.

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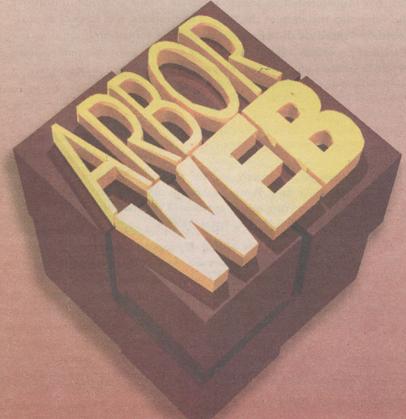
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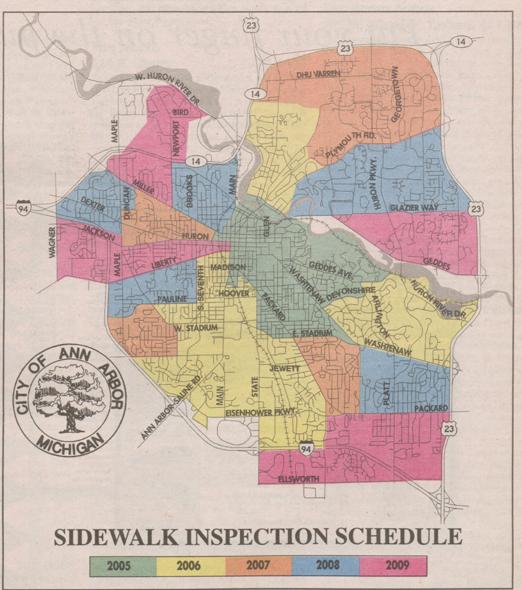
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Q: Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the public sidewalks and walkways?
- **A:** Per City Code, Chapter 49, Section 4:58, all sidewalks within the City shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the adjacent land.
- Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair? How can I check if my sidewalk needs repair?
- A: You simply talk with the City's Customer Service Center at (734) 994-2818. This call will trigger a request to the Technical Services Unit for a sidewalk inspection. If repairs are needed, the City will notify the property owner by letter of the specific requirements to bring the sidewalk into compliance.
- Q: What if the sidewalk damage appears to be caused by tree roots?
- A: Please call (734) 994-2818 to initiate an inspection by a staff person from forestry and/or the Technical Services Unit to see if a problematic root can be removed without endangering the stability and health of the tree. The property owner is still responsible for the sidewalk repair costs.
- Q: Why doesn't the City make the repairs and bill the owners?
- A: When contractor's perform work for the City there is additional costs for the contractor for Bonding, Insurance and the requirement to pay prevailing wages. Based on our Customer Service Survey we found the average cost for a 4" slab for homeowner's in 2005 was \$130. The City cost for a 4" slab in 2005 was at least \$170
- Q: If I don't make the repairs what will the City charge me?
- A: The City will make the repairs and pass on all associated costs. In 2005, that would have been a minimum of \$170 per slab plus project costs, which were \$225 per address.
- Q: Why doesn't the City find the contractor for the owner?
- A: Based on our Customer Service Survey we have implemented a Contractor Pre-Qualification process. The contractors on the list will be instructed by the City on the procedures of sidewalk repair within the City of Ann Arbor. Contractors will also be rated on their performance by the City and the Customer Service Survey. The ratings will allow us to remove or add contractors based on City and owner experiences.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR SIDEWALK REPAIR

PROGRAM



The City of Ann Arbor has implemented an annual sidewalk repair program to improve the walk-ability of the sidewalks throughout the City. The program will inspect all sidewalks in accordance with the schedule shown on the map. The annual program does not eliminate the citizen request procedure. If you would like to make an inspection request, you may call (734) 994-2818 or send an e-mail to: Sidewalkrepair@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES:

- Property owners or contractors may obtain the specifications and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's Community Services Area, located on the Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue.
- 2. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Community Services Area to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of \$100,000.
- 3. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Community Services Area 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000.

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

- Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged use our sidewalks daily. Poorly maintained sidewalks carry high risks for injury. Your help is appreciated to make sure all residents may travel safely along our sidewalks.
- 2. City Code (chapters 47 and 49) requires property owners to properly maintain the sidewalks and public walkways adjacent to or abutting their property for use by the public.
- 3. Properly maintained sidewalks decrease your liability and enhance the overall aesthetic image of our City.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Community Services Area at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Hint: Multiple property owners working together may receive lower prices from a contractor.

More information is available on the City's website at: www.a2gov.org/sidewalk

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MyTown

Weavers' reunion

Spinning yarns at Panera

had no problem finding the women I was meeting for Sunday brunch at Panera. As soon as I came in the door, I could see a beckoning glow way in back. When I plopped into my chair, I completed a halo of shining silver hair—the hardest-won fiber of them all.

The six of us are weavers, all longtime members of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild (the guild turned fifty this fall; our tenure averages thirty-five years). We've all dyed lots of fiber: spun, unspun, with natural dye, with synthetic dye. Yet despite this familiarity, none of us has dyed her own hair. Oddly, most of us are also wearing some combination of white and pale blue clothes, as if we'd taken a communal vow of simplicity.

Any aura of primness is soon neutralized by steady spills of laughter. Weaving meant a lot of things when we were starting out. The fuzzy-crafts movement was in full swing (remember macramé?), but weaving itself was in revival mode, as weavers found and figured out long-abandoned early American patterns. With no stores like Pottery Barn full of colorful pillows, rugs, and scarves, we made our own; our friends thought we were very clever to be able to create such loveliness.

We've all cut back on how much we're weaving, but Marje is still making beautiful tapestries. Ruth's scarves are so close to conceptual art they challenge the notion of being worn. Charlene weaves wall hangings (no other term has managed to replace this awkward and ominous one). Lenore is selling real estate, but she still has her looms. Milly, who despite her denials can do anything, surprises us with a piece now and then, including a tallis for her grandson's recent bar mitzvah. I think of yarn as attenuated lines, so I feel I'm doing a similar, if less dimensional, thing by drawing instead of weaving. But the yarn yearning still overcomes me once in a while; then I embroider or crochet. We are all still enamored of yarn, cloth, clever solutions to anything, and each other.

"Why was it weaving that we chose?" I ask

"I did it to save money," Marje says. I'm surprised, since weaving can be very expensive. But she'd found her niche. "George [her husband] made me a frame with nails like a giant pot holder loom. I ordered some cheap yarn and made scarves for presents. When I saw them, I said, 'I'm a weaver! I know I'm a weaver!'"

"My girls took classes at the Y and later, when we were living in Sweden," Charlene remembers. "We bought them a loom. When they were at school, there was the loom. I thought, 'This looks like fun.' So I wove a scarf for my dad, and I was hooked."

For Charlene, "it's about math." Not for Lenore—"I don't like math," she says.



As soon as I came in the door, I could see a beckoning glow way in back. When I plopped into my chair, I completed a halo of shining silver hair—the hardest-won fiber of them all.

Lenore "started because a friend asked me to go with her to do a class. It was a Polish master teacher. We didn't do anything less fine than twenty ends per inch. I don't know why I stayed. My mother was amazed that I had the patience, because usually I don't have any patience.

"It's about sight as well as feeling. There's the idea of putting it together."

Thoughts and memories spun out, so to speak:

"I have no clue why I began weaving. I trembled when I got my first loom."

"I think it's a wonderful way to express your love for someone—to give them something you worked on over weeks."

"Weavers look at yarn and say, 'What can I do with this?'"

"It's a very satisfying, organizing thing."

"Questions keep arising: 'What if I did

"I like color, but I can't paint. Now I can do it in Photoshop."

Photoshop is one of the ways in which industrialization, which made traditional household weaving unnecessary, supports it now. Charles Babbage used Jacquard loom cards to indicate digital positions in early computers. Now Photoshop provides image manipulation to weavers, and some weavers have computer-powered looms at home. Marje fed a drawing by one of her grandsons into her computer, fixed it up, and is weaving it as a tapestry.

e ask Milly why she and June (who is forever unavailable for brunch; we yearn for her quiet wisdom) opened the Wild Weft yarn store in 1971.

"I was taking a weaving class at the Y from Jane Hawkins," she remembers. "June took a scarf I'd woven [in class] to a charity auction. She got ten dollars for it.

"I'd been complaining about how hard it was to get weaving yarn in Ann Arbor. So [June] came over and said, 'We're starting a store.' 'We are?' I said. 'Yes,' she said. 'We're going to call it the Wild Weft!'"

The store opened in Milly's basement but soon moved to a small storefront now filled by an expansion of Seva. Then it went to Kerrytown, where it provisioned yarn habits until 1985. All of us at the Panera table had worked there. It was a boon to weavers and proof that it's possible to have a moneymaking support group of sorts—we loved each other and listened to each other's problems as we worked. We listened to customers' problems, too—it was a bar for yarnaholics.

The Wild Weft didn't sell just to weavers. Many other fiber crafts were becoming popular—so in 1985 the Ann Arbor Weavers Guild renamed itself the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. A sincere lot, we had many anguished discussions before adopting the new name. Before that, we'd had similarly intense philosophical meetings about whether or not it was okay to machine stitch the hems of handwoven place mats. And that was long before we realized we had to eat low-fat bran muffins and fruit salad at Sunday brunches instead of Panera's tempting pecan rolls and little round quiches.

The guild began with about nineteen members, all weavers. Today it has 100 more members than that, but still only twenty to thirty weavers. The rest are spinners, embroiderers, knitters, felters, beaders, quilters, surface designers (who do any of the preceding crafts plus painting, drawing, and printing to embellish fabrics), basket makers, and doll makers. Many members—most, perhaps—do more than one of these techniques.

A felter told me about all these goingson—spring and winter sales, a fashion show, workshops, demonstrations, showings of various sorts. She remarked, summing up, "It's like a candy store, isn't it?" Right—and like a bakery at brunch time, or like an infinity of ideas waiting for the right yarn.

-Lois Kane

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Heidi and Bill

A life in letters

his is how one ninety-year-old passes his time at Glacier Hills Retirement Community. I had a full career in mathematics at the U-M and pursued many hobbies. Being in reasonably good health, I could have pursued any one of them or accepted the diversions offered by Glacier Hills

Instead, I have turned to writing. With a computer at hand, it was very easy to do. The choice of subject was essentially forced on me, for by a variety of circumstances I found myself surrounded by letters, thousands of them. They cover the lives of my wife, Heidi, and myself from our childhood to the recent past.

We moved to Glacier Hills in December 2004, and Heidi died in January 2005. I began to write that March. Heidi and I had already begun to organize our letters, and since her death, two friends and I have continued the work; by this past June we had covered the years 1936-1950, filling fifty large loose-leaf binders. Working from the collection, I've already published one volume of our shared autobiography, and am now working on a second.

Many of the letters are in German. I met Heidi-properly Verena Ida Roettinger-in a math class at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 1936. Entering the classroom for the first time, I found her sitting alone in the first row while the boys all sat in the back rows. That seemed rude, so I sat down next to her. We slowly got acquainted, discovering a shared love not only of mathematics but also of classical music (she'd assumed that as an American, I'd be interested only in "chazz"). In November, after carefully rehearsing a little speech in German, I invited her to the school ball. When the dance ended at 5 a.m., we didn't try to find a taxi; we walked home together, holding hands all the way. A month later I asked her to return to America with me, as

With Hitler in power in Germany and the danger of war already apparent, we were anxious to be married as soon as possible. Heidi graduated in 1938, and our wedding was held that August in the Zurich City Hall.

finished my Ph.D. the next year. With the Depression still lingering, permanent teaching jobs were hard to obtain. I landed a one-year position at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, but when it ended in the summer of 1940, I found myself unemployed.

Heidi and I came to Ann Arbor that June-not to look for work, but to attend a two-week congress on topology. I gave a talk at the meeting, and several days later Michigan's department chairman asked me to see him. He offered me a one-year appointment as an instructor, a position

Thirds August 1988.

The June Than Kaf Wach langene Varhlache Life cycles: Heidi and Bill Kaplan as newlyweds (center), with their children Roland and Muriel (left), and in Stratford, Ontario, in 1995.

suddenly made available because a faculty member was going on leave.

We had tried desperately to get such a position, but to preserve my pride I replied that I would think it over. The next day I accepted. From then on I never wanted to leave Ann Arbor and declined several offers without bargaining.

The next year saw Pearl Harbor, and America's entry into the war. In a letter to her mother a few months later, Heidi described Michigan's transformation into a vital part of the Arsenal of Democracy:

There are 60,000 new families moving to Ypsilanti because of Ford's new bomber plant. You can imagine the apartment shortage and rising rents. We expect to hold through here till the government provides new housing. They are building already, but it takes time; they are expecting a new city to grow out of nothing with 200,000 inhabitants, between Detroit and Ypsilanti.

After the Nazis completed their occupation of France in November 1942, they controlled all communication to Switzerland. For the next two years, none of our letters to Zurich were delivered. But that

December, Heidi's mother heard that outgoing letters were getting through, and sent us birthday and Christmas wishes: "We shall have a small Christmas tree and shall celebrate the Holy Evening [Christmas Eve] quietly, while our thoughts are with our dear ones so far away. We wish your little family happiness and good health in the coming year. May God protect you."

Heidi's family got through the war safely in neutral Switzerland, but ten years later, another European conflict reached across the Atlantic. "We now have Hungarian refugees in Ann Arbor," Heidi wrote to a Swiss friend in 1957. They had fled after the USSR crushed an uprising against Hungary's Communist government. "The Unitarian church is looking out for one family. Next Tuesday there will be a little party, to which members of the church will bring kitchen equipment, since the poor people have almost no possessions. The university has also admitted many Hungarian students. This is all well and good, but, as [our ten-year-old daugh-

ter] Muriel says, 'But Mommy, this does not make the Russians go out of Hungary.'

uriel insists that I tell Grossmutti [Grandma] about the May Festival," Heidi wrote the following year. "This year Muriel and some of her school friends are in the [children's] chorus. She had to sing for three adults and some days later was told that she had passed that audition. You can well imagine that she is in seventh heaven and never tires of telling how she is going to sing with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra in a white gown (the gown appears to be the main thing!).'

Our son Roland was sixteen in 1958, and already an expert on Michigan football. "On Saturday the eleventh, just imagine, the whole family went to the Navy game, my first football game in Ann Arbor in eighteen years," Heidi wrote to her mother that fall. "It was really fun. I sat next to Roland, who was all engrossed and only grudgingly and most condescendingly would answer such questions as 'Where is our goal now?' (Really, Mommy, how stupid can you be?) In the process we got some mountain climbing exercises. When we entered the stadium, we were told that our seats were fifty rows down, so down we went-plump, plump, plump-and then we were packed like sardines. No wonder they manage to get a hundred thousand 'seated' in this stadium. Michigan lost honorably, we climbed up the fifty rows again, and I had a last look over this vast arena."

Reading these early letters, I look back over another arena-the history of our lives together. This project has brought back the past in a vivid way, enabling me to almost relive it. It has made me conscious of the great changes in the way we live, of how families can be held together over great distances—and of how love can overcome all the barriers of separation.

-Wilfred Kaplan

Roadside therapy

The tree on M-14

t was mid-November 2001. Christmas was approaching, but two months after 9/11, it was hard to feel much cheer.

Still numb from watching passenger planes turned into building-toppling missiles, I needed an antidote to the rising tide of anthrax scares and bellicose talk from D.C. I remembered a tree I'd noticed years ago during my daily commute on M-14. Someone had festooned it with holiday ornaments, a few of which remained on its bare branches for years.

So one morning, I pulled out of the surge of traffic just east of Ford Road and decorated a tiny, awkward Charlie Brown-ish Scotch pine. I hoped to somehow lift the gray, cold skies above me and the sour mood I felt in my heart.

That first year I placed a few dozen shiny blown-glass ornaments on the tree, which stood about six feet tall and about forty feet from the highway. I even went so far as to do some landscaping, whacking down weeds and grasses to give drivers a better view.

Every day, driving to my job in Northville Township, I'd search hopefully for my tree: in the early morning dark, in the whiteout conditions of a blizzard, in the fog, the rain, or even the rare brilliant sun of mid-December. I felt, if only momentarily, a bit better each time I spotted the little island of color amid the dried, brown wildflowers and grasses.

've decorated a tree there every year since, though last year I switched to a smaller one, when the first had grown too big for me to reach its top branches.

I use about five dozen ornaments, and have refined my techniques to make the decoration easy to do and not too garishjust a little color to lighten the mood, the commute.

Over the years I hoped others enjoyed the tree, that they noticed it. But it wasn't something I dwelled on-it was fun to do, and even necessary, for me.

Late this past January, I tramped through

a foot of snow along the embankment of M-14 to take down the still colorful but somewhat weather-faded ornaments.

Approaching the tree, I noticed the usual flotsam and jetsam of highway life: pop bottles, plastic bags, and bits of tire. At first I thought the clear plastic water bottle wedged about four feet up in the branches of "my" tree was just more of the same.

But as I reached for the bottle to add it to the small pile of trash I'd take with me, I saw that it wasn't there by chance: someone had tied it to one of the pine's branches with a small piece of red ribbon. And inside it was a carefully rolled up

I untied the ribbon. Standing in a snowbank, feeling the early morning chill in my feet as traffic thundered past, I opened the bottle and unrolled the note.

I can sometimes feel lost in the world, more tethered to the strong tidal pull of M-14's traffic than to other people. So it helped to read what someone had written

"by the way, you are appreciated. thanks'

-John C. Heider

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Personals Key

A=Asian J=Jewish ≥=Letters B=Black LTR=Long Term C=Christian Relationship F=Female M=Male ND=Nondrinker G=Gav NS=Nonsmoker H=Hispanic ☎=Phone Calls H/WP=Height & Weight P=Professional Proportionate ISO=In Search Of W=White

Women Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 11.

PERSONAL CALL (900) 226–8978 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

Beautiful blonde, creative, outgoing, fun, NS, seeks calm, competent, caring, and articulate man. Love the outdoors, camping, good music, theater, conversation. 43–53. #5663.

Intelligent SBF, 5'7", NS, enjoy trips, companionship ISO like-minded SM, 60-plus, with integrity and laughter in his heart, for friendship leading to LTR. 256622

Attractive brunette, W, widow, youthful 60s, NS, Italian/American with many in-

ous, NS, Italian/American with many interests ISO relationship/companionship. with SWM, age 58–70. ₱5656₺

Vegan woman, 39, seeking vegan/vegetarian man, age 30–50. Do you enjoy dinner parties, yoga, foreign films, and ethnic foods? Write back! ₱5660₺

Accomplished SWF, 49, seeks gentle-manly, articulate, and successful SWM for companionship. Please, only single men, 40-plus and drug- and STD-free. #5659 % Crunching leaves, watching snowflakes, picking tulips, picnicking by the river. SWPF, late 50s, ISO SWPM to share delights of the seasons and more. \$\pi\$5648\$\nneq\$1

Nature photographer, writer, animal lover SWPF seeks like-minded gentleman, 40plus, for travel, trips, companionship. NS, ND, grounded, intelligent, ready for a meaningful relationship. You? ₹5617₺ Liberal, slender, smart, fit, educated good woman ISO a very good man, 45-55. ₹5624₺

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, health, laughing, and more. Loyal, honest, and giving. ISO the same, 46-53. 25630 \$\infty\$

Men Seeking Women

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DWM, 77, 5'8", 150 lbs., handsome. Enjoys dance, travel, cards, and walks. NS, ND, emotionally and financially fit, from

SWM gentleman, 50, nonsmoker, non-drinker, 5'11" tall, physically fit, financially secure, sincere, honest, very happy and so-cial, lots of fun, very active, enjoys weightlifting, aerobics, dancing, swim-ming, cycling, cooking, outdoors, and mak-ing new friends. In search of single female, 35–55, very slim, petite, great attitude with a big smile for a great long-term relation-ship. \$\infty\$5657\$\$

SWM, 46, looking for his snow angel, 30–50. Enjoys going out to eat, going to the movies, and who would like to cuddle on the cold winter nights. Kids okay.

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. SWM, 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. 25655 1

One-woman SWM, 45, seeks resilient,

DWPM. Tall, slim, fit. Likes to laugh, travel, hike, read. Enjoys movies, plays, conversation, nature, sports. ISO woman, 48–57, with similar and additional interests. Will we make each other smile? ₱5628≰₂

SWM, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar SWF, compatible, attractive, approximately 45–60. ≈2918 ≥

DWM, 54, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. #4486#

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. #3031%

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Seeking other vegans/vegetarians in Ann Arbor area. Let's plan a vegan holiday! Veg. female new to Ann Arbor, seeking vegan and vegetarian male and female friends. \$\pi\$5661\nn2561\nn25661\n

Women Seeking Women

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Men Seeking Men

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Men Seeking Women SWM, 46, looking for his snow angel, 30-50. Enjoys going out to eat, going to the movies, and who would like to cuddle on the cold winter \$\frac{1}{25597\mathref{\mathref{E}_0}}\$

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Classifieds

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Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 127? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's A History of Ann Arbor. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–4950; e-mail: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

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Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Cover listing by:

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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2006

Volume 14 Number 7



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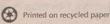
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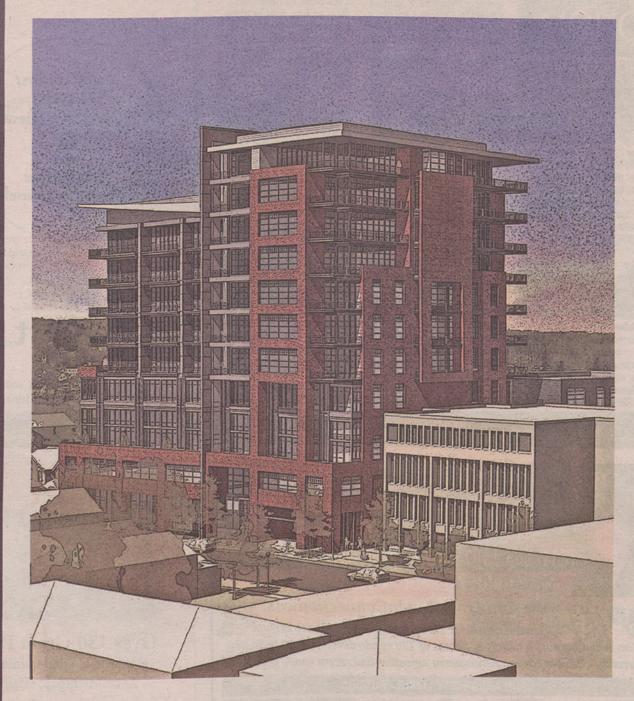
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Dexter 6843 Daly. Brand new, 4,500 sq. ft., exquisite home on gorgeous waterfront lot. Striking features throughout. 5 bedrooms. 4.5 baths, on 2 acre site with privacy galore. \$759,000. #2610363



Dexter 3997 Preserve. 6,067 sq. ft. luxury home with lake view 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, cherry floors on main, gourmet kitchen, 2 fireplaces, media room, wine cellar. 3-season porch, deck with hot tub. \$995,000. #2603419



Ann Arbor 5618 Meadow Lane. Incredible 3,600 sq. ft. contemporary + walkout. Awesome inground pool, hot tub & lanai with outdoor kitchen and bath, 1st floor guest suite/study, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths up. 2ac. \$875,000. #2613646



Ann Arbor 3040 Bird Song Lane Fabulous, new brick and cedar 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home by Elan Designs. On 3 acres in Fleming Lake. 5,200 sq. ft., study, walkout. Expansive windows with views. \$1,090,000. #2606700



Ann Arbor 5093 Dixboro Farms. On 2 acres in N.E. Ann Arbor. Extrordinary Nantucket style new home with elegance and style throughout. 5,000 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, one-of-a-kind butternut cabinets. \$1,375,000. #2613706



Dexter 7250 Park Lake. Awesome

3-story timber frame home with

private lake. Home includes 11

acres of incredible property and

barn. Splits possible. \$1,125,000.

400' of frontage on 35 acre

#2615694

Ann Arbor 2855 Gladstone, Unsurpassed in quality and design. New construction, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 luxury baths, hardwood floors, ample storage spaces and fully landscaped yard. \$599,000. #2613025

email: elizabeth@elizabethbrien.com web: www.elizabethbrien.com

Chelsea 177 Glazier, 5,800 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath on all-sports

Cavanaugh Lake. Great room with

walls of windows, study, master

suite. Media room, wet bar in

walkout. Guest house, screen

porch. \$959,000. #2615600

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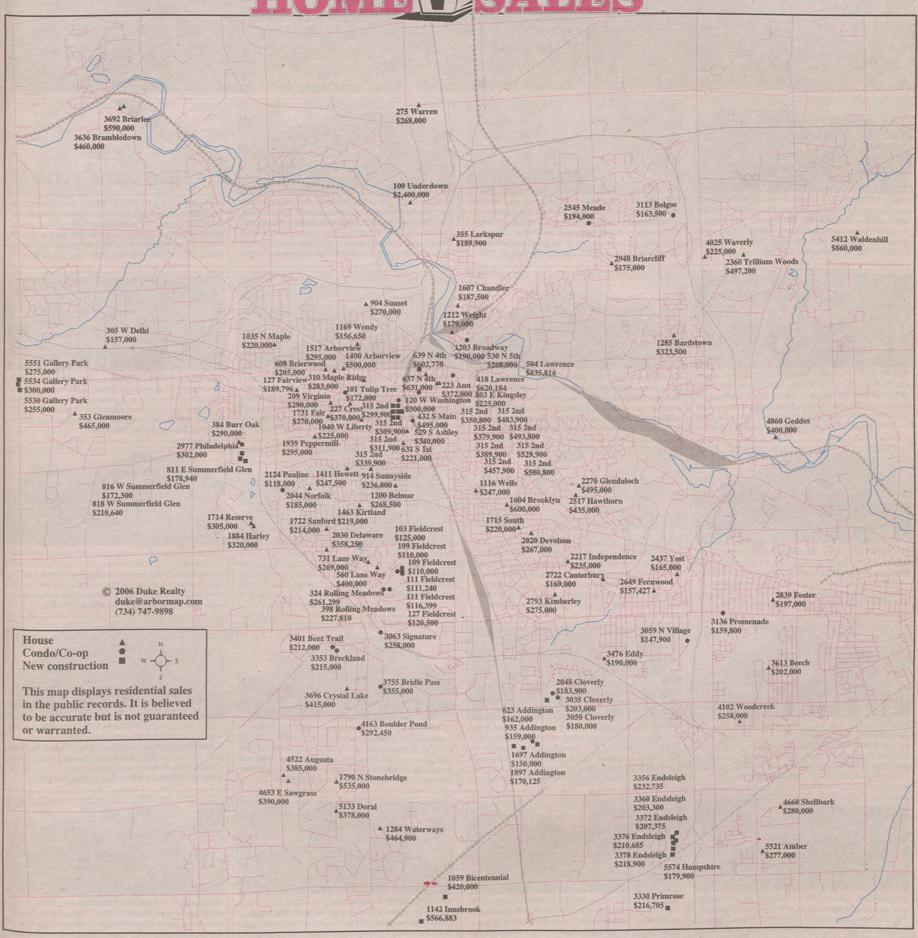
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OCTOBER 2006



Home sales have slipped a long way from their peak in 2003. Through October, the number of homes sold in the Ann Arbor school district is down 32 percent compared to the first ten months of 2003. Our count is the most comprehensive available, including both new and existing single-family homes and condominiums, whether they sold "by owner" or by a Realtor or builder.

Builders took the biggest tumble. Even strong sales of Liberty Lofts condo-

miniums at 315 Second Street were not enough to pull the new-construction numbers out of their nosedive. Through October, home builders sold just half as many new homes as they managed to sell during the first ten months of 2003. (Note that we have not counted Woodland Mews sales as new construction—the South Main condos were converted from apartments.)

In contrast, high-end home sales appear to have gained ground. Through October, a total of 104 homes have sold

for \$600,000 or more. By comparison, just eighty-four homes in this price range were sold in all of 2003. High-end sales now claim 10 percent of the local market for previously owned homes, up from a 6 percent share in 2003.

The most expensive sale so far this year, 100 Underdown in Barton Hills, appears on this month's map. The 6,200-square-foot residence set on two wooded acres was purchased by the Borders Group's new president and CEO.

Also on the map, 5412 Waldenhill Court in Superior Township included a 3,800-square-foot residence on a 1.67-acre lot. While the \$860,000 price tag may sound impressive, a closer look at the home's past suggests that the high-end market may have stumbled along with the rest: public records posted on the web indicate that this home in Glennborough subdivision sold for \$1,060,000 in 2001.

-Kevin Duke

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KING SCHOOL AREA – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home represents the most classic example of true contemporary architecture and décor available in Ann Arbor. Gorgeous acre property in the heart of one of the area's most desired locations. The proportions are massive throughout with top-quality finishes everywhere. \$1,295,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING—ANN ARBOR HILLS—Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3-bath, and 2 half-bath new construction in one of Ann Arbor's most premier neighborhoods. Complete and ready to go, this home is leaded with only the best in finish and workmanship. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and top-end appliances, two-story great room, knurry list-floor mester suite, and den with cherry built-ins \$1,200,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Breathtaking new construction in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is incredible, loaded with quality features and amenies. Custom kitchen with vaulted ceiling, fireplace, granite, and professional grade appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite and more. \$1,195,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Incredible opportunity. This stately 4-bedroom, 4½-bath brick colonial features every conceivable feature and amenity. Interior features include custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances hardwood floor and custom trim, luxury master suite, and finished lower level. \$1,150,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



BURNS PARK – Complete renovation inside and out awaits you at this striking 5-bedroom, 3-bath home. Extensive upgrades throughout including custom maple kitchen with granite counters, slate floors in many rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling and modern bath, and great flexuse third floor. \$799,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features showcase-like finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan includes two-story living room, den with oak paneled walls, cherry kitchen with marvelous eating area, family room with site-built cabinets, and first-floor master suite with marble bath. WOW! \$679,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MATTHAI FARM — This custom-built ranch on a peaceful acre lot is a nature lover's paradise. Enjoy private surroundings, natural harmony, and extensive landscaping from one of four decks. The interior is in perfect condition and features an oversized great room with redwood ceiling and natural fireplace, luxurious master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$669,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NICHOLS ARBORETUM AREA — This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is just a short walk to the Arb and U-M Campus. Extensive renovation makes this home a wonderful find. Features include master bedroom addition, remodeled maple kitchen, oversized family room, ample hardwood floor, and gorgeous private lot. \$649,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE — Enjoy near perfection in this custom-built 4bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Interior is gorgeous featuring large great room with vaulted ceiling, gournet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

NEW LISTING

STONEBRIDGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on peaceful cul-de-sac setting in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. This home is built to perfection including custom kitchen with grantie counters and professional grade appliances, two-story great room, custom trim throughout, luxury master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. \$569,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – Builder's model home 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – This 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Bayberry home in the Arboretum is an incredible value. Many quality features and amenities including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, oversized two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. \$460,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP – Stately, new 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial on a private 6-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor, St. Joe's, and freeways. This home is loaded with quality features including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, ample hardwood floors, famify room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. \$450,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE – This well appointed 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs features wonderful updates and is in perfect, move-in condition. Features include ample hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and beautiful windows, kitchen with granite counters, huxury first-floor master suite, and significant, mature landscaping, \$439,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – WEBSTER TOWNSHIP – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a quiet country cul-de-sac is just perfect. Gorgeous lot with extensive landscaping and oversized patio. Interior is highlighted by the two-story family room, cherry kitchen, back stair, and luxurious master suite. Dexter Schools. \$439,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YORKSHIRE HILLS – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is loaded with all the features you've been hoping for and is an incredible value. Features include granite kitchen counter tops, large family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$407,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER – Are you looking for the perfect country retreat? This is it. Enjoy the rolling vistas from the rock-solid, all-brick ranch on 10 pastoral acres just outside of town. This home has the perfect set-up with two pole barns, fenced horse pasture, and in-ground pool. Interior is sharp with great room and finished walkout basement. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a private lot in one of the area's best neighborhoods. This home is perfect featuring large kitchen with hardwood floor and 9-ft. ceilings, open family room, spacious master suite, and in move-in condition. You will love this home! \$388,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING—HOMETOWNE VILLAGE—This custom built 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs is in perfect move-in condition. Gorgeous setting, very pretty pond view Interior is dramatic with 10-ft. first-floor ceilings, large kitchen, great room with built-in entertainment center, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – MAPLE CREEK – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial in Pittsfield Twp. sits on a gorgeous almost acre lot. Interior spaces feature cherry kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, and nice master suite with walk-in closet. \$279,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – LINCOLN SCHOOLS – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, two-story is one of the only true custom built homes in Greene Farms. Enjoy wonderful features and amenities throughout including extensive landscaping, oversized deck, tasteful décor, kitchen with maple cabinets, and luxury master suite with oversized walk-in closet. Stunning! \$249,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GRASS LAKE - This brand new 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2-acre parcel is just wonderful. This open floor plan features a large kitchen with maple cabinets and hardwood floors, large great room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$239,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

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NEW LISTING – DEXTER SCHOOLS – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4½-bath 2006 Showcase of Homes entry in Mystic Ridge by Charlestown Building Company. This home features only the best including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, extensive Brazilian cherry floors, custom tim, two-story great room with stone fireplace, and finished walkout besement. S995,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – Located on the 2nd green at TPCC, this custom built home by Holly Development is perfect in every way. Every aspect of this home is upgraded including cherry paneled den with fireplace, two-story living room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished lower level. \$879,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE – This incredible custom-built waterfront home overlooking the golf course is just stunning. Every detail is covered featuring two-story family with wall of glass to water, gourmet kitchen with sub-zero fridge, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with great multi-use space. This home is gorgeous!! \$872,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



POLO FIELDS – This is one of the finest homes you will ever see! Top-quality, custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac with panoramic golf course views. Interior is special featuring ample hardwood floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, oversized first-floor master suite, two-story living room, and finished walkout basement with theater. Wow! \$849,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$649,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial. Perfect setting backing to protected forest area. Interior is loaded including all hardwood floors, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass, and luxury master suite including flex-use sitting area. \$629,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - LOHR LAKE VILLAGE - This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home is one of the finest homes you will find. The lot is just spectacular with panoramic water views, mature trees, and gorgeous landscaping. Interior is a showplace featuring maple kitchen with granite, great room with stone fireplace, finished walkout with ree room bar, and more. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER — Stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bath timber frame style home set on 12 gorgeous, private acres bordering a nature conservatory. Incredible feel with exposed beam construction, upgrades galore, custom kitchen with granite counters, luxury master bedroom, and separate suite with full kitchen. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MANCHESTER – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2.8 setting backing to woods is just perfect. This home features only the best highlighted by custom maple kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, great room with cherry floor and custom built-ins, and hoxury mater suite with dream bath. \$534,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and huxurious master suite. You will love it. \$534,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



TANGLEWOOD – This striking 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath on a private, one acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Features include oversized deck, ample hardwood floor, large family room with fieldstone fireplace, wonderful formal living room and dining room, and great bedrooms. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HUNTINGTON WOODS – Spectacular 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction by Bayberry in Saline's most beautiful new sub: This home is loaded with quality features and amentities including 3-car garage, walkout basement, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, and luxury master suite with sitting area and luxury bath. \$469,900. Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100.



NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – Enjoy stunning Huron River views from this completely remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape cod. Perched high above the river this home features a gorgeous living room, remodeled kitchen, ample hardwood floor, and luxury master suite with wall of glass to the Huron River. You will love it! \$434,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SANDPIPER COVE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful acre lot in the highly desired Saline community. Enjoy the many luxurious features including oversized maple kitchen with ample cabinets, family room with builtins, and large master suite with dream bath. You will love it! \$434,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST—This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath former builder's model home is just perfect! Incredible features inside and out including extensive mature landscaping, large deck, and patio. Interior is highlighted by ample hardwood flooring, maple kitchen with granite counters, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE — Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot loaded with custom features and amenities. Features include striking two-story great room, upgraded kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter tops, luxury first-floor master suite, den with built-ins, and finished basement with great flex-use rec space. \$409,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - BRIDGEFIELD ESTATES - This is one of the finest homes you will find. Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to trees. Interior is upgraded in everyway including gournet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite counters, and stainless steel professional grade appliances, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with sitting room. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS — This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the best lots to be found. Enjoy the quiet cul-de-sac location with expansive backyard, deck, patio, and extensive lendscaping. Interior is move-in perfect featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, oversized kitchen with hardwood floor, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SAGINAW HILLS – This home is drastically reduced for quick sale and represents an incredible opportunity and value to the buyer. Striking 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a gorgeous 2.8 acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Enjoy this oversized lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. Unique design perfect for those with a little flair. \$329,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR - This is the perfect 3-bedroom starter ranch on the west side of town. Everything is updated in this super sharp home. Extensive hardwood floors, remodeled master suite and kitchen, finished basement, 2½-car garage, and fenced backyard. \$219,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



AUGUSTA TWP — Rock-solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a treed acre lot just minutes to US-23. This home has had an extreme makeover, new items in the past 5 years include roof, siding, carpet, paint, and windows. Great floor plan features family room with fireplace, large kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. \$199,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



YPSILANTI – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick colonial, walking distance to EMU. This home is as cute as it gets and in move-in condition. Features include spacious living room with hardwood floors, coved ceiling and fireplace, formal dining room, large sun room, spacious bedrooms, and private backyard. \$189,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE – This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a quiet culde-sac street has been completely redone inside and out. Wonderful features including 2½-car garage, fenced yard, new kitchen with maple cabinets, hardwood floors, sharp décor, and full basement. \$174,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.





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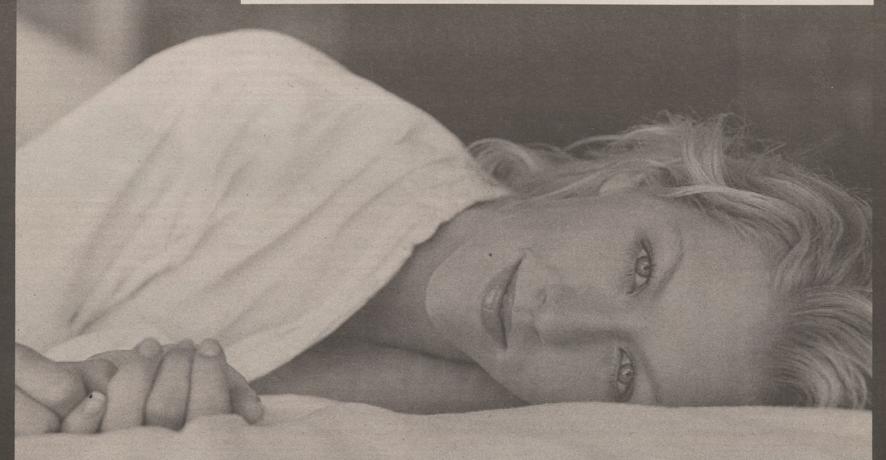
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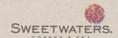
Januarys Weekly Prizes



MAINSTREET



Januarys Daily Prizes







I found a GIFT CARD from



I found the LOVE of my LIFE won DINNER for TWO at Carlyle!



I sold my CAR & NECKLACE fro Lewis Jewelers!



HOUSE won TWO ROUND-TRI AIRLINE TICKETS from Conlin Travel!

Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

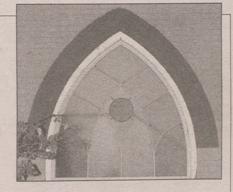
The bishop who laid this building's cornerstone was an army chaplain under President Lincoln.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"It's the Heidelberg!" e-mailed



Richard Charlton from New York City. Lori Kumler of Ann Arbor also recognized that the decorative window in last month's I Spy was at the place "where one will find lagers, Friday night salsa, and comedy." "What I love



the most is the tag line of 'Eat, drink, dance, and be merry,' " wrote Ann Arborite Tui Minderhout.

The building at 215 North Main was home to many kinds of businesses, from barbershop to dye shop, photography studio to grocery store, before settling in as the Heidelberg. In addition to German cuisine on the main floor, there's a bar, the Rathskeller, downstairs, and entertainment upstairs in the Club Above—"home of the Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, the longest continually running poetry slam in the U.S.," according to entrant Andrea Maglione of Ann Arbor. Richard Charlton won our random drawing; he'll receive a copy of Jonathan L. Marwil's History of Ann Arbor.



fake ad

by Jay Forstner

"Nate has a weird favorite food," the Fake Ad Czar's son, Ben, said the other day at breakfast. Nate is in Ben's class and is as normal as a first-grader can be, so this news came as a bit of a surprise.

"What is it?" the Czar asked.

"Lemons," Ben said.

Father and son laughed, saying they would have expected pizza. Or cookies. Or ice cream. Or cheeseburgers and fries. The list went on and on. Finally, the Fake Ad Czar asked Ben, "What did you say was your favorite food?"

"Frog legs," he said, and went back to eating his cereal.

We tell this story in response to the numerous times we at Fake Ad Central are asked how we come up with these ads. The answer, as you can tell, is that they're hereditary. We get them from our children.

Last month, 137 Fake Adders spotted the Fake Ad for the casino proposed by the Huron River band of Anishinarborwebek Native Americans (p. 44). Martha Irwin of Ann Arbor, who enters

Indian Casino in Washtenaw County— Well Worth the Gamble? Please join us for an informative discussion of the Ann Arbor area's paming future. International gaming expert Dr. Jack Sorbetter will open the evening with his opinion of the economic impact a potential Native American casino would have on Washtenaw County. A town meeting will follow. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 4 At the site of the proposed casino Admission is free

every month, won our random drawing. She's taking her gift certificate to Mast Shoes.

To enter, identify the December Fake Ad by name and page number, and let us know at the address below. Remember, the Fake Ad always includes some reference to the Observer's website, arborweb—in November it was buried within the name of the fictitious Native American tribe. The winner of our random drawing will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Fax: (734) 769–3375. E-mail: backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon Monday, December 11, will be eligible for the December drawings.

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 69 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings begin on p. 69.

Classical & Religious Music

- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 2
- Sacred Song, Dec. 2
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 3
- · Gojogo avant-chamber ensemble, Dec. 4
- Pianist Waleed Howrani, Dec. 2 & 3
- University Choral Union Messiah, Dec. 2 & 3
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 9
- "Tuba Christmas," Dec. 10
- Dexter Community Band / Community Orchestra, Dec. 10
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 10
- Violinist Gabriel Bolkosky, Dec. 10
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Dec. 10
- U-M Men's Glee Club & Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 10
- Pianist Zhihua Tang, Dec. 11
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 12
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 15
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 15
- · Community Messiah Sing, Dec. 16
- St. Andrew's Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 17
- Five Seasons Chamber Players, Dec. 22
- First Presbyterian Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Ben Taylor and Sonya Kitchell (singersongwriters), Dec. 1
- Javon Jackson Superband (jazz), Dec. 1
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 2
- The Slackers (ska), Dec. 2
- Mike Mosallam, Amanda Satchell, Gavin Creel, and Celia Keenan-Bolger (cabaret), Dec. 3
- Lee Murdock (Great Lakes songwriter), Dec. 3
- Bobby "Blue" Bland (blues), Dec. 5
- Ryan Montbleau (singer-songwriter), Dec. 6
- Zion 1 (hip-hop), Dec. 7
- Urban Transport (jazz), Dec. 8
- Fourth Wishes (jazz), Dec. 8
- Groove (a cappella), Dec. 8
- Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band (calypso), Dec. 8
- S nall Potatoes (singer-songwriter duo), Dec. 8
- Califone (avant-folk), Dec. 8
 County Connection Syrest Adelia
- County Connection Sweet Adelines (barbershop), Dec. 9
- Tye Tribbett & G.A. (pop-gospel), Dec. 9
- Mike Fedel & Friends (pop-folk), Dec. 9
- RFD Boys (bluegrass), Dec. 9
- Huron Valley Harmonizers (barbershop), Dec. 10
- First Unitarian Church Ragtime Bash, Dec. 10
- Jay Stielstra (singer-songwriter), Dec. 10
- Stewart Francke (singer-songwriter),
 Dec. 11
- Dr. John (New Orleans), Dec. 12 & 13
- Kitty Donohoe (singer-songwriter), Dec. 14
- Lynn Miles (singer-songwriter), Dec. 16
- Concert for Peace (benefit with several local performers), Dec. 17
- All-American Rejects (power-pop), Dec. 18
- Luck of the Draw (country-rock), Dec. 31
- Killer Flamingos (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 31
- The Chenille Sisters (pop-folk), Dec. 31

Christmas Crèche Display





A Christmas Carol

The Santaland Diaries



Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Finvarra's Wren (Irish), Dec. 15
- The Ark "Crossroads Ceili" (Irish), Dec. 29 & 30

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Treasure Island (EMU Theater Department), Dec. 2, 3, 8, & 9
- Junie B. Jones (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 3
- Redheaded Robbie's Christmas Story (Young People's Theater), Dec. 8–10
- The Nutcracker (Youth Dance Theater of Michigan), Dec. 8–10
- Ralph's World family show, Dec. 9
- A Christmas Carol (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 9
- A Christmas Carol (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 13
- Peter Pan (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 15–17
- Puppeteer Maureen Schiffman & Coco, Dec. 16

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Holiday bazaars & sales, Dec. 1-3 & 8-10
- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 1-3
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 1–4
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 1–3
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum "Christmas
- on the Farm," Dec. 2 & 3
 Kempf House German Family Christmas,
- Dec. 2, 3, 9, & 10
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 2 & 3
- Dexter United Methodist Church "Christmas Odyssey," Dec. 8 & 9
 First Presbyterian Church Boar's Head
- Festival, Dec. 8 & 9
- Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance "Leaf and Lizards Weekend," Dec. 8–10
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 9
- Rentschler Farm "Christmas at the Farmhouse," Dec. 9 & 10
- Alebrije Productions "Tradicional Pastorela & Posada Mexicana," Dec. 16
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Holiday events this month include the annual crèche display December 1–4, Wild Swan's production of A Christmas Carol December 13–17, and a chance to see David Sedaris's vinegary Santaland Diaries December 1, 2, and 7–9.

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Dave Dyer, Dec. 1 & 2
- · Comic Carlos Mencia, Dec. 2
- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 5
- Neutral Zone Poetry Night, Dec. 6
- Comic Rob Little, Dec. 7-9
- Comic John Heffron, Dec. 14-16
- Comic Chili Challis, Dec. 21-23
- Comic Jef Brannan, Dec. 28-30
- Comic Tom Foss, Dec. 31

Lectures & Readings

- Fiction writer & Found editor Davy Rothbart, Dec. 5
- Novelist Mary Gaitskill, Dec. 7
- Local historian Grace Shackman, Dec. 10

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- Merchant of Venice (Greenhills School),
- Sleeping Beauty (EMU Dance Program),
 Dec. 1
- The Great American Egg Nog Festival (Blackbird Theater), Dec. 1, 2, & 7–9
- H.M.S. Pinafore (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 1–3
- Mnemonic (U-M Basement Arts),
- Escanaba in Love (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 1–3, 6–10, 13–17, 19–23, 26–28
- The Fantasticks (Performance Network), every Thurs.—Sun.
- The Nutcracker Ballet (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 2 & 3
- Heat Lightning (U-M Residential College), Dec. 2 & 3
- You Can't Take It with You (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 7–10
 Posthumous (U-M Basement Arts),
- Dec. 7–9
 Private Eyes (P.T.D. Productions),
- Dec. 7–10 & 14–16

 Nutcracker Ballet (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 15–17

Films

- Warren Miller ski adventure film Off the Grid. Dec. 9
- Buster Keaton's silent The General with a live Blue Dahlia score, Dec. 12

Miscellaneous

- Zingerman's Roadhouse dinner with southern foods expert John T. Edge, Dec. 5
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 16

(Self-Proclaimed) Only in Ann Arbor Event of the Month

"Only in Ann Arbor: Sexual Health for Ages 60+" talks by U-M Sex Matters Clinic for Older Adults therapists, Dec. 14

university of michigan school of art & design

decem www.art-design.umich.edu 12.01 & 12.02



The Center for Dressing Up & Down is a collective of students at the School of Art & Design who examine the transformative power of clothing through the creation of garments and accessories. They will participate in this Winter's Shadow Art Fair, an alternative art fair for indie designers. A&D Assistant Professor Nick Tobier

and EverydayPlaces also debut WorkWear, a wearable alternative to men's work shirts from grease pits to boardrooms. www.shadowartfair.com

FRIDAY, 12.01 8:00PM - 12:00AM SATURDAY, 12.02 11:00ам - 8:00рм

Corner Brewery (Forest & Norris Street) 720 Norris Street , Ypsilanti

12.01 - 12.22



Warren Robbins Gallery 2nd floor, 2000 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor

OPENING: FRIDAY, 12.01 6:00 - 9:00PM

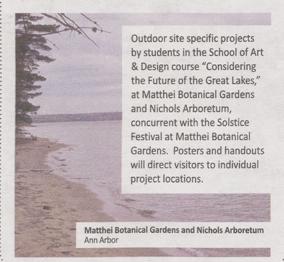
12.01 - 12.31

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PERFORMANCE **CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF THE GREAT LAKES**



12.01 - 01.31

EXHIBITION SMOKE

An installation, including sculpture and rice paper paintings, by A&D visiting artist, Tuan Tran inspired by the

this poem: "It is said that the soul is bright/It is said that the soul is invisible because it is decent/As for me, it is a wisp of smoke and it is strolling..."

First and second floor West hall, Art & Architecture Building 2000 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor **12.01** - **ONGOING**

PLAY > ON TV AND THE WEB

PLAY is a new "exhibition space" for video and time-based art by the School's faculty and students. PLAY's short films air in between regular programming on Michigan Television (WFUM) and the Michigan Channel and can be found at PLAY's online gallery: www.playgallery.org.

12.04

POSSESSIVES USED AS DRINK (ME)

Assistant Professor Stephanie Rowden and A&D graduate student Sadie Wilcox, in collaboration with writer Anne Carson, present a cross-disciplinary, multi-media project, Possessives Used as a Drink (Me), including sonnets by Carson, a soundscore by Rowden, videography by Wilcox, and dance performed on video by dancers from the Merce Cunningham Company

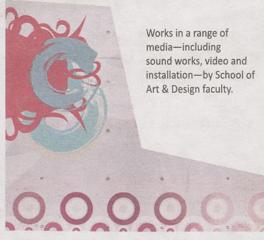


MONDAY, 12.02 12:00 - 1:30РМ

> Video Studio 2281 Bonisteel Boulevard, Ann Arbor

11.17 - 12.10

3RD ANNUAL A&D FACULTY EXHIBITION



& 306 South State Street, Ann Arbor 11.11 - 12.17

CLAY 10

An exhibition of work by CLAY 10, an Ann Arbor-Detroit coalition of ceramic artists who have been united since the fall of 1981, to promote and present their work collectively. They include: A&D Professor Georgette Zirbes, Associate Professor Susan Crowell, Emeritus Professor

John Stephenson, Susanne Stephenson, Shirley White Black, Kathy Dambach, Rafael Duran, Jim Leacock, and Tom Phardel.

ARTIST TALK: SUNDAY, 12.17 3:00PM

River Gallery 120 S. Main Street, Chelsea



Sign language interpreter provided upon advance request for lectures.

University of Michigan, School of Art & Design, Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069, Most events are free and open to the public. For more information, telephone 734-763.1265 or email: katewest@umich.edu http://www.art-design.umich.edu

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